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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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SPORTS



Dozens of fans came out to the Steaming Tender Restaurant last Friday to interact with successful stuntman and Palmer product Doug Danger.

Danger returns to the area

Daredevil signs biography

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff writer

PALMER – Doug “Danger” Senecal, the pride of Palmer and one of the greatest stuntmen of his generation, made his homecoming on July 24 during a book signing

at the Steaming Tender Restaurant. The 58-year-old daredevil has performed all over the world but relished the opportunity to return to his humble beginnings.

“We’re kicking off the book-signing tour, and where else can you do it but your hometown?” said Senecal, promoting “Doug Danger, Dare to Dream: From Tragedy to Triumph.”

Senecal is a world record

holding motorcycle jumper who first entered the Guinness Book of World Records in 1991. Over the course of his career, he’s jumped over school buses, tractor-trailer trucks and jumbo jets from wingtip to wingtip.

His trials and tribulations have been well-publicized. As a stuntman, Senecal has broken approximately 50 bones; one incident landed him in a coma for more than

a month.

Last Friday, he reminisced on his incredible journey, crediting the people of Palmer for their long-standing belief in him.

“The greatest people come from somewhere. All I can say is that the people in the town of Palmer inspired me to chase my dreams,” said Senecal. “I had a

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COMMUNITY

Vigil focuses on tackling racial injustice



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden

(L to R): Vigil organizers Lauren Melinda-Reuter, Taysia Franco-Smith, Kailey Shepardson and Rebekah Herring.

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – In the past few months, efforts to combat and conquer racial injustice have been taking place nationally. Last weekend, a similar effort took place right in the town of Palmer, in the form of a vigil.

On the afternoon of July 25, attendees made their way to Legion

Field to take part in a discussion about the racial injustices, ranging from systematic racism to police brutality and white supremacy.

Co-organizers Lauren Melinda-Reuter, Taysia Franco-Smith, Rebekah Herring and Kailey Shepardson put this vigil together to serve as a wake-up call to the residents of Palmer, who they believe

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COMMUNITY



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden

Promote Palmer Party event organizer Allison White being interviewed by Bruce Marshall of Classic Hits 97.7 FM.

Promote Palmer looks to support local businesses

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – Over the weekend, Demore’s Automotive made another stride with their continuous community outreach efforts with their latest event, the “Promote Palmer Party.”

This event, which took place on Saturday, July 25 and was held in the back of the automotive repair shop, gave the public the opportunity to support Palmer Food Share Inc. by bringing a donation. In return, donors received a ticket for one free for item from Sassy’s Catering food tent, or money off

of items at Treasure Chest Emporium, who alongside Small Town Custom Treasures, celebrated their one year anniversary.

Event organizer Allison White said this event came from an idea from Jay Demore, co-owner of Demore’s Automotive, who wanted to find a way to support Palmer Food Share and help support small businesses in town.

Regarding the event itself, White said she was happy that despite some setbacks, they were able to host this event and support these local town establishments.

“I really hope people learn to shop locally,” said White. “Even though these are small businesses, you can find things that are cool that you won’t find at other stores.”

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COMMUNITY

Selectmen review cease and desist against QRC

By Elise Linscott
elinscott@turley.com

MONSON – The Board of Selectmen Tuesday night reviewed a cease and desist order against the Quaboag Riders Club, whose neighbors said that motorcyclists have caused issues with noise, erosion and stormwater runoff.

The town issued a cease and desist order last year after finding that seven acres had been cleared without a permit and a track had been illegally installed on the riders’ club land. The conservation commission also issued an enforcement order for the hill climb and wetland sections of the property, town administrator Evan Brassard said at the Board of Selectmen’s July 28th meeting. The club will need to apply for a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals before it can reopen the track.

Police chief Stephen Kozloski said that to his knowledge, the property wasn’t currently open for use by club members, only for

routine maintenance. He said there had been an uptick in calls to the property starting last September; some were unfounded, but on one call it looked like the track was likely being used prior to officers arriving. Kozloski said there were other instances this spring of people in the parking lot and hill area. In a couple cases, officers found club members performing maintenance, so officers asked them to comply with any paperwork with guidelines for property maintenance/usage.

Attorney Jim Bregianes, representing the Quaboag Riders, said it was “highly likely” that any noise coming from the property was coming from a member of the public using Quaboag club land.

One meeting attendee, Ingrid, who said she used to own the land where the flat track is, called police recently after seeing two motorcyclists on the property who didn’t have license plates and who identified themselves as Quaboag

QRC | page 3

TOWN OFFICES

Monson officials discuss reopening Town Hall

By Elise Linscott
elinscott@turley.com

MONSON – Despite some apprehension, the Board of Selectmen and town administrator Evan Brassard discussed what reopening Town Hall could look like.

Brassard said there’s been some pressure from the public to reopen. It could also be helpful in allowing staff

to be able to work with members of the public who’ve had trouble navigating drop-off windows.

“There are folks I think that would be much better served if they could walk in,” Brassard said. “I think we can do it, and do it safely.”

So far, the plan is to have one staff member inside the building per office, so staff members will alternate days, he said. Masks will be work in

all public areas.

“We’re already doing a twice daily sanitation as part of normal procedure and we’ll probably bump that up to three times a day,” Brassard said.” Brassard said.

The town building has been open for appointments like marriage intentions; long tables in the building’s meeting room facilitate social distancing, Brassard said.

“If it’s not going well, you can always take a step back after,” he said.

He suggested all board and committee meetings remain virtual outside of selectmen’s proceedings, especially since some have been drawing large crowds, including recent planning board public hearings for a proposed retail store at 96 Main

MONSON | page 6



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Monson Craft Fair canceled for 2020

MONSON – The Annual Holiday Craft fair, sponsored by the Monson Arts Council, will not be held as usual this year. The fair, held on Thanksgiving weekend every year, is a victim of the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions which it has made necessary. It is not possible to accommodate crafters and visitors safely in the indoor spaces under the Phase 3 guidelines, organizers said.

The cancellation interrupts a string of 41 years of Holiday Craft Fairs. The event has become a major attraction both for crafters in our region, and for the public, which has attended in large numbers to do their Christmas shopping.

The cancellation is also a major economic blow to the arts council, which has counted on the Craft Fair for a significant portion of its income each year. Peter Barnett, President of the MAC, notes:

“Like many arts organizations

across the country and the world, particularly those depending on large indoor venues, the MAC has been adversely affected by the pandemic. The cancelling of the Craft Fair follows the earlier cancellation of our Spring Art Show; these are the two main events on our calendar. We continue to offer socially distanced arts exposure through smaller events such as our featured artist program on Facebook, our drive-by scavenger hunt, and our current online competition ‘ART in the Garden.’ Nevertheless, we are facing a substantial income shortfall. Anyone who would like to support our programs financially would be more than usually helpful.”

Contributions can be made through becoming a member of the MAC, or by direct donation. Anyone interested in further information about the Monson Arts Council should visit the council website www.MonsonArtsCouncil.com.

Brimfield tenth annual Town Wide Tag Sale

BRIMFIELD – Rain or shine, the tenth annual Brimfield Town Wide Tag Sale is coming Saturday, August 22 at 8 a.m. Hitchcock Academy takes care of all the publicity so that sellers can dedicate themselves to having a successful event. After registering online at www.hitchcockacademy.org and paying the \$12 fee, sellers get their own numbered listing on a Brimfield map. The listing includes location and a short, 65-character, description of the items or type of items for sale at each stop. Maps become available free online beginning on Friday, August 21. Or, if buyers prefer, they can pick up a printed map for \$2, also beginning Friday, August 21 at Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield.

For people who lack space to hold a yard sale, Hitchcock Academy will have some areas to set up on their lawn. People utilizing Hitchcock Academy lawn space will be listed individually on the tag sale map. Last year nearly 30 households took part in the event and this year, after all the cleaning out that took place during quarantine, the hope is that even more people will participate. Tag sales provide win/win opportunities for both buyers and sellers.

Buyers are repurposing unused items, which keeps these things out of local landfills and sellers gain household space and a little cash.

Those who wish to host a tag sale can stop into Hitchcock Free Academy to register, or they can register online by Monday, August 17, by 5 p.m. Once registered, sellers must stop the Hitchcock Academy office to pick up their numbered sign. Hitchcock Academy will advertise the Town Wide event on local media outlets and sellers are encouraged to use social media to publicize their sale to friends and family. Those sellers, who wish to continue their sale to Sunday at their home can inform Hitchcock Academy and the additional day will be noted on their map entry.

For a free online map of the sale go to www.mahomesllc.com. Hitchcock Academy, Executive Director, Cindy Skowrya offers many thanks to Stephanie Bayliss who sponsors this event. Skowrya also asks that participants social distance and wear masks when required.

SMART plan receives 2020 Leadership award

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Deferred Compensation SMART Plan has received the 2020 Leadership Recognition Award through the National Association of Government Defined Contribution Administrators.

The NAGDCA Leadership Award recognizes excellence and innovation in retirement plan design, participant education, technology and/or effective communication methods in government defined contribution plans.

State Treasurer Deb Goldberg and the SMART Plan team are committed to assisting and providing economic security and opportunity for every Massachusetts public employee. This past

December, Plan assets have risen to \$10.06 billion from \$4.5 billion in 2009. The plan now has more than 109,000 full-time

employees and 178,000 part-time employees with active accounts.

“The SMART Plan’s mission is to provide a predictable financial future for our state’s employees,” said Treasurer Goldberg. “This award is a welcome recognition for the hard work done at Treasury to ensure a secure retirement is a reality for all who contribute.”

“We are pleased to receive this recognition from NAGDCA and excited about our results to date,” said David Lynch, executive director of the Defined Contribution Plans. “The SMART active choice enrollment form with an auto-increase option helps new employees make an informed choice to begin saving for retirement early in their careers and at a rate that will have a material impact on their overall retirement benefits.”

The Massachusetts Deferred Compensation 457 SMART Plan is a retirement savings program available for Massachusetts state and municipal employees. Eligible employees can save and invest before-tax and after-tax dollars through salary deferrals into the Fund’s wide array of low-fee investments options.

Palmer compost area summer schedule

PALMER – The compost area will be opened the third Saturday in July, August and September to afford town residents the opportunity to drop off leaves and grass clippings at the compost area off of Old Warren Road Palmer. Please place leaves and grass clippings in brown paper bags and do not drop off and place up against gate. Reminder: Please practice social distancing. Any questions, please call the DPW at (413) 283-2615.

Date	Time
Saturday August 15, 2020	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 16, 2020	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monson Cultural Picnic goes virtual

MONSON – The Monson Cultural Picnic will be held via livestream this year. Taking place on Saturday, August 8th from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Watch from everywhere around the world. Sign-up on www.afrikque.com and go to upcoming events to get a Zoom password.

There will be musical performances by all of the talented individuals and groups that were scheduled to perform at the park. The event will also feature artists and crafters who will be showing their creations. Come celebrate with through dancing and singing from the convenience of your home or anywhere you’ll be that day!

Hitchcock Academy Summer Concert Series returns

BRIMFIELD – The Summer Concert series is back with new dates, times and a new location. Grab your blanket or chair. Pack a picnic or enjoy food from the West Wind Farm food truck. Join in as Green Acres has generously partnered with Hitchcock Free Academy to host three concerts at their 66 Palmer Road (Route 20) location in Brimfield. According to Hitchcock’s Executive Director, Cindy Skowrya, having the concerts at the Green Acres field means plenty of space and easier parking.

The series begins on Tuesday, August 4 with New England Weather Trio, featuring singer-songwriters Rob Adams, Jared Fiske and vocalist Jessica Adams. They travel throughout the Northeast performing everything from ‘60s rock to today’s pop. Next in the series is local favorite Radio Ranch on Thursday, August 20. Radio Ranch’s veteran musicians Joe Calcasola, Matt Smith, Jim Lamothe, Art Reed, and Justin Calcasola will get your toes tapping and your soul singing with their lively blend of Country and Americana music. The New England Weather Trio concert and the Radio Ranch performance will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m..

On Wednesday, September 2 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., The James Paul Band winds up the series with their mix of Southern Rock and original music.

The group includes James Paul on vocals and guitar, Skip Dioreto on drums, Russell Oliveira as lead guitar, Brent Nielsen on bass and David Barret on keyboard and guitar. They bill themselves as, “five friends playing together.” The band acknowledges their many influences including The Black Crows, Credence Clearwater Revival, John Mellencamp, Tom Petty and the Beatles, which all blend to contribute to their unique musical style.

The Hitchcock Academy concert series is a summer staple in the area and it happens because of the support of Country Bank, the Monson Lions Club, the Mass Cultural Council, the Brimfield Cultural Council and the Shirley Frye Memorial Fund. Although the shutdown prompted by Covid-19 meant postponement, current Phase 3 guidelines mean the shows can go on. As in year’s past, concert goers are encouraged to bring bug spray. This year they are also asked to adhere to the Phase 3 guidelines regarding masks and social distancing. However, Skowrya is quick to point out that Green Acres expanded area provides plenty of room to spread out. She encourages everyone: young, old, in between to come out into the open air; to enjoy being with community members and to make some memories all while enjoying some of summer’s sweetest sounds.

Gobi named to Committee studying COVID outbreak at Holyoke Soldiers Home

BOSTON- Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) has been named to the joint oversight committee charged with investigating and studying the coronavirus outbreak at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home that resulted in the death of 76 residents this spring.

Senator Gobi is a former vice chair on the joint committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, and currently services as vice chair on the joint committee on Public Service- in addition to her work as Senate Chair on the joint committee on Higher Education, and the joint committee on Environ-

ment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. She had this to say on being named to the committee: “The loss of Veterans to COVID 19 and the horrendous toll it has taken on their families is worthy of deeper investigation add to that the allegations of improper care and questionable medical decisions and you have the necessity of this commission. I am honored to serve on the commission in memory of our lost Veterans.”

Between March 21st and early June, the outbreak infected more than 71% of the 210 veterans living at the home. The

17-member committee is tasked with conducting a comprehensive review of the situation, including, but not limited to:

A review of the structure, leadership, and staffing levels at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke;

A review of the quality of medical care provided at the Home;

A review of the preparedness and ability of the leadership and staff at the home to respond to COVID-19 prior to the outbreak;

A review of all communications by the leadership and staff relative to the outbreak;

A review of the results of any state and federal investigation into the mismanagement and the resulting infections and deaths of both veterans and Staff at the Home;

The committee is tasked with filing its report on the results of the investigation and study, as well as and legislative recommendations by March 31st, 2021.

For more information on the committee, please contact Senator Gobi’s office by email at Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov.

Behavioral Health Network to open Family Resource Center in Ware

Behavioral Health Network (BHN) has announced the opening on August 1 of a new Family Resource Center (FRC) at its Ware location.

The BHN Family Resource Center provides free support and access to community resources for families and their children ages 0-18. Located in each of the 14 Massachusetts counties, the statewide network of FRC’s are funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Department of Children and Families.

The BHN Family Resource Center provides families and

children in Hampden and Hampshire Counties with a variety of supports and services.

“We offer everything from playgroups and fun family events to connecting families with services and opportunities - no one is turned away and everything is free of charge. Our goal is to emotionally support families, strengthen their bonds and help them engage with the community,” explained Program Director Linda Blouin-Roy.

The FRC offers an array of services through its experienced staff: School Liaisons help families work with school systems

to ensure their children are receiving the support and resources they need; Family Support Workers help connect families with community resources; and clinicians and Family Partners work with families to develop a support plan that best meets their needs. Children and families that need additional supports or are at risk of court involvement can be assessed by FRC clinicians to develop a Family Support Plan.

“This program is an exciting addition to our service offering,” said BHN President and CEO Steve Winn. “The Family Resource Center is a great example

of how BHN is collaborating with community partners to provide a support network for families. In these pandemic times when families are experiencing more isolation and stress, resources like this become even more essential.”

The BHN Family Resource Center is located at 78-80 Main Street in Ware. It is currently open by appointment only due to COVID-19. Telephone support and virtual offerings such as story time and caregiver support groups are available. For more information, contact the BHN Family Resource Center at 413-277-6601 or bhnnrc@bhnnrc.org.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week’s edition, email Editor at elinscott@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at elinscott@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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Advertising Sales
Lisa Marulli
lmarrulli@turley.com

Editor
Elise Linscott
elinscott@turley.com

Staff Writer
Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

Subscriptions
cgrisswold@turley.com

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OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

\$8.7 million in federal funding given to Holyoke Medical Center

HOLYOKE – Over the weekend, Congressman Richard E. Neal, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means joined President and CEO of Holyoke Medical Center Spiros Haritas for the announcement of \$8,700,000 in federal funding to the hospital.

“This money is a lifeline for providers who are caring for the COVID patients and others in the community who need quality health care, and Holyoke Medical Center is one of the best,” said Congressman Neal. “The COVID-19 pandemic is first and foremost a health crisis. This funding will help support patients, providers, and frontline health workers. Holyoke also stepped up and took on patients from the Holyoke Soldiers Home when it was overwhelmed with COVID-related infections. Thanks to their help, many veterans received the care they needed during a troubling time.”

“Holyoke Medical Center, like other Massachusetts hospitals, has suffered significant financial losses in the fight against the pandemic,” said Haritas. “For a small stand-alone community hospital, the impact of the additional costs and the loss of revenue can mean financial ruin. Chairman Neal has tirelessly advocated for all hospitals, and very specifically for the most vulnerable hospitals, like Holyoke Medical Center. We are extremely grateful for the advocacy and the financial relief we received. This funding directly helps our nurses, doctors and frontline staff because it secures PPE, equipment and resources for the ongoing fight against the pandemic. We know that the Chairman will continue to keep a watchful eye on Massachusetts hospitals as this pandemic unfolds. We are confident he will do everything in his power to continue the much-needed support.”

This funding was made possible through the Department of Health and Human Services Provider Relief Fund’s second round of high impact COVID-19 area funding to hospitals.

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Riders, she said.

“Mr. Bregianes indicates the riders will apply for a special permit. We will oppose that,” said attorney Chris Myhrum. “I don’t see the ZBA possibly issuing a special permit. Acres of land were cleared illegally, the track was installed illegally, the storm-water coming onto my client’s property is illegal.” He also said the noise and track activity on club property were in violation of the zoning bylaw.

The Conservation Commission will be discussing the property and enforcement orders at its next meeting, Brassard said. The ZBA will have 65 days to set a hearing date after Bregianes and the club request one.

MONSON | from page 1

St., which have regularly drawn around 100 attendees.

Some staff members will continue to work remotely, and offices that don’t frequently interact with members of the public won’t have customer service windows.

Brassard said he’d spoken to Monson Free Library director Hope Bodwell and that the library will likely follow Town Hall in reopening.

“The library has their own protocol... they’re going to have to reduce staff” to two members in the building at any given time, Brassard said.

Members of the public won’t be able to sit in the library, only to pick out items and check out or return them, he said.

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Journal Register

Lesser announces \$250,000 for tourism marketing in the Pioneer Valley

Funding aims to support tourism and local businesses impacted by COVID-19

SPRINGFIELD – On Monday, Senator Eric P. Lesser was joined by Mary Kay Wydra, President of Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau and John Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame to announce \$250,000 in funding for tourism marketing in the Pioneer Valley.

“This funding for tourism marketing will help us begin to rebuild and bring business to our restaurants, attractions, and hospitality industry across the board,” said Senator Lesser. “This grant is meant to promote Western Massachusetts for socially distanced activities and

hopefully when visitors are here, they’ll fill up their gas tanks, buy dinner, buy souvenirs, and help us hire back workers for the many jobs that were lost. This funding is a vital measure to begin putting money back into the local economy and back into our local families.”

“With abundant opportunities for outdoor and socially distant recreation as well as iconic attractions, Western Massachusetts is well positioned to welcome visitors,” said Wydra, President of Greater Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau. “The tourism industry has been particularly hard hit by the effects of COVID-19, and this funding will provide a much-needed boost to our marketing efforts to safely reopen our industry, generate economic activity for our region, and put people back to work.”

“Senator Lesser’s work on securing this very important grant to aggressively re-start the tourism

industry in Western Massachusetts demonstrates his willingness to listen, analyze, and respond to the real need of getting thousands of workers and hundreds of businesses back up and running which are a major contributor to our local economy,” said Doleva, President & CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. “Western Massachusetts is well positioned to tell the story of safe, serene, fun and engaging family activities not only for this period as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, but for years to come. This grant will elevate tourism in our region to a new level permanently and his efforts are appreciated.”

This funding is part of a \$1.1 billion coronavirus response package that was adopted by both the Senate and House and signed into law on July 24th by Governor Baker.



Senator Eric P. Lesser.

Courtesy photo.

An Evening of Hope and luminarias on for Relay for Life on Aug. 8

Relay for Life of Quaboag Valley to host mostly virtual

BELCHERTOWN – Relay for Life of Quaboag Valley will be holding an Evening of Hope and Luminarias on Saturday, Aug. 8.

Relay for Life is a signature event of the American Cancer Society. Each year relay events are held across the country to raise funds for cancer research and to provide support to cancer patients and their families.

In addition to raising money, the events are a way for communities to come together to celebrate with survivors, to remember those who have lost their lives to the disease and to commit themselves to fighting back.

Just like COVID-19 has created financial strain for many families and businesses, it has also caused the cancellation or modification of many relay events. Many of the smaller fundraisers that teams hold throughout the spring have had to be cancelled as well. The ACS estimates that if the current trend continues, fundraising for 2020 will be down fifty percent from previous years. This threatens lifesaving research and disrupts the patient support that they provide, according to the society.

The leadership team for the Quaboag Valley event has been working hard to plan a modified Relay event that will keep everyone safe.

On Aug. 8, the group will be holding a mostly virtual event that relay teams and the public will be able to view and participate in on the group’s Facebook page.

Members of the Event Leadership Team will be at the Belchertown High School track that evening from 6 to 8 p.m., where they will be live streaming some of the traditional relay events such as the opening ceremony and survivor lap. Throughout the evening there will be live online programming with videos and photos from relay teams and survivors. That evening will also kick



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS COURTESY PHOTO

The Quaboag Valley Relay for Life will be a mostly virtual event this year on Aug. 8. People are invited to purchase luminarias at www.RelayForLife.org/QuaboagValleyMA.

off an online auction that is still in the planning stages.

At 8:30 that evening, relay teams and the public are invited to come to the high school parking lot for a drive-through luminaria ceremony. Luminaria are decorated, illuminated bags that are made in honor of a cancer survivor or in memory of someone who has passed away after a battle with cancer. Attendees will park in the lot and remain in their vehicles for the ceremony and then be able to “drive-through” to view the luminaria.

The evening will end with a closing ceremony streamed on Facebook.

Be sure to follow “Quaboag Valley Relay for Life” on Facebook to catch it all!

Individuals may make a donation or dedicate a luminaria through the website, www.RelayForLife.org/

QuaboagValleyMA. Luminaria may also be purchased through any Relay for Life team member. Please help give hope the advantage over cancer by donating now.

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POSTPONEMENT:

We are so sorry but our May Scrabble Night and our May Basket Raffle will be postponed. At this time we are uncertain as to when they will be rescheduled.

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Viewpoints

editorial

We still need to wear masks – over the mouth and nose

According to health officials, the U.S. is still in the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic, which could last through the winter and coincide with flu season.

There’s been a recent surge in cases across the U.S. over the last few weeks, and while Western Massachusetts hasn’t been as affected as other regions of the country and state, it’s important that we continue to social distance and wear our masks – correctly – to keep it that way.

The only way a face mask is effective for its intended purpose of keeping you and others safe is when it’s worn covering both the mouth and nose, so it can catch any little droplets. This is especially important when within six feet of other people.

This may seem like a no-brainer. But almost every time I’m walking down a main street, someone has their mask pulled down below their nose. In one major coffee house I went into recently, four out of the six employees had their masks below their noses as they made food for drive-through customers on a busy Saturday morning. I’ve also seen people lower their masks below their mouths when they approach a cafe window to order, which is arguably the one time you’d want to keep it on, while you’re talking to other people in a heavily-trafficked area.

It’s easy to think that since the risk of getting the coronavirus is still relatively low, why does it matter how strict we are about wearing our masks or whether or not we’re really six feet apart from each other?

If I were to test positive for the coronavirus, for instance, I’d know my chances of surviving it are in my favor. But what about the risks of everyone else I’ve been within six feet of over the last several days? Anyone who’s worn a mask below their nose or mouth in a busy area like a cafe counter or grocery store would have no idea how many potential people they’d exposed. Those cafe employees I saw could’ve exposed hundreds of people in a shift if they were positive for the virus and asymptomatic, as many young people are.

If we want to work toward flattening the curve again, ending the first wave and preventing as many deaths as possible, it’s up to all of us to work together.

Hot cars are no place for pets

If you wouldn’t leave a baby unattended in a hot car, why would you leave a pet?

It may be the dog days of summer, but that doesn’t mean pet owners should subject their furry family members to the season’s sweltering days. With temperatures in Western Massachusetts reaching the 80s and 90s, it’s important to realize the effects of summer on those who can’t boldly express just how hot they are – pets.

While it may be convenient while you stop inside a store for a quick pick-up, it’s not the right thing to do, potentially fatal and it’s against the law.

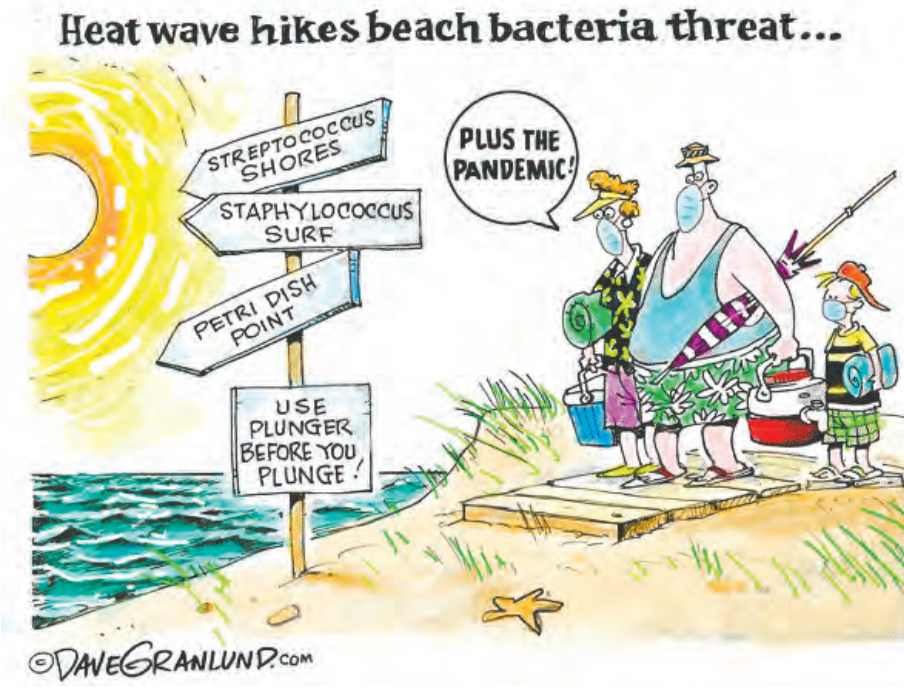
In August 2016, Gov. Charlie Baker signed “An Act Preventing to Animal Suffering and Death,” which “prohibits the confinement of animals to vehicles where they are subject to danger from extreme weather conditions, limits the length animals can be tethered outdoors, and enables first responders and bystanders to assist in their rescue.” With this legislation, fire responders as well as bystanders, are able to enter a vehicle to rescue an animal on a hot day after calling 911. Immunity from civil or criminal liability is given to first responders and bystanders, and those who leave pets in vehicles during extreme weather will be subject to a fine.

Cars become ovens during the summertime, in or out of a heat wave. According to a study of 16 vehicles conducted between the summer months of May and August by the San Francisco State University Department of Geosciences, the average temperature inside of a vehicle rises 19 degrees within 10 minutes. In 20 minutes, the temperature rises 29 degrees. After 30 minutes, the temperature rises by 34 degrees. And after one hour, the temperature rises an average 43 degrees. The study found leaving the windows partially open does little to reduce a vehicle’s interior temperature.

Coloring of a dashboard and seat matter too – the darker the color, the hotter it will become. A dark dashboard or seat can reach temperatures between 180 and 200 degrees Fahrenheit in the sun (water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit).

It doesn’t take long for a pet to overheat or experience heat stroke when left in a vehicle. Symptoms of a dog in trouble include excessive drooling, heavy panting, rapid or difficulty breathing, staggering, weakness and disorientation. Heat stroke occurs when a pet’s temperature rises above 106 degrees. Animals affected by heat-stroke can die in minutes without immediate and proper attention.

During these dog days summer – and even in extreme temperatures on the colder end of the scale – remember: nobody should leave their “fur baby” in a car.



Cleome, a welcome volunteer

Recently, I was weeding an area of my yard that had been a fern garden. I never had such a distaste for ferns until I tried to eradicate them, mat-like roots and all. I vowed henceforth that every new sprout would be removed immediately and within a month of my initial labor, I found myself back in the same garden, yanking up all the baby ferns, crabgrass, purslane and the like. To my surprise, however, there was a friend among the foes! A cleome, sometimes known as spider flower, had seeded itself. Had the seed lay dormant for years only to be exposed to the light now that the ferns were gone? One is never certain how volunteers make their way to the landscape.

Cleome was one of the flowers that my mother and I planted in the annual border along the foundation of our house; for that reason it holds a special place in my heart. As a child, I was drawn to the seed pods of this peculiar plant; if you waited until they were “just right” and gave them a squeeze, the seeds would fly everywhere. What fun! This attribute gives the plant tremendous “staying power” in the garden. In other words, it pops up everywhere the following season (and maybe seasons later?). This can be a very good thing if you enjoy having the cleome around as much as I do.

Spider flower goes by the scientific name Cleome hasslerana. Older cultivars such as ‘Helen Campbell’ and the ‘Queen’ series top off at an airy four or five feet tall, while the newer ‘Sparkler’ hybrids are a bit shorter and bushier. Besides white, spider flower comes in pink, cherry and lavender. It was given such a unique name because of the flower’s long, slender stamens that remind one of spider legs protruding from the plant. The stamens hold the eventual seed pods a distance away giving them even more “popping power.”

Because cleomes are flower producing power-houses, they sometimes become exhausted by midsummer; their lower leaves yellow and flowers start to fade. I always thought that if they were dead-headed like other, more common annuals were, maybe they would last longer into the season. So, as an experiment I clipped the seed-pods close to the plant as soon as they began to form. Unfortunately the overall form of the plant was altered, not for the better, and with little reward for my work. Then I began to search out what exactly cleomes need in order to thrive with the idea if perhaps I met those requirements I’d have better luck.

I had always known that cleomes prefer full sun and well-drained soil. What I didn’t know was that they also like fertile soil and space away from one another. In other words, three per 18” container will not work and regular doses of liquid feed are a must.

In the north, the cleome’s habit of self-sowing doesn’t become annoying, but in warmer areas it can become weedy. Clipping the seed-pods as mentioned above would “nip this problem in the bud.” Seedlings that develop from volunteers will likely be a blend color-wise of the plants you grew last year because they are cross-pollinated by insects. Only time will tell what color my cleome flower will be. I can’t wait to see it and have it drop all of its wonderful seeds just in time for next year’s garden.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



In My Backyard

By Ellenor Downer

An Oakham resident said she saw a black and white warbler for the first time. She also saw a yellow warbler. She has cedar waxwings that come for the berries on mulberry trees planted by a previous owner.

The black and white warbler is about 5 ¼ inches long. It creeps down tree trunks like a nuthatch in search of insects under the bark. The first time I saw a black and white warbler it was climbing down an oak tree in my yard. The warbler’s long bill enables it to grab insects under the bark. The male has black and white striped crown as well as upper and lower parts. The female is similar, but she has a gray ear patch, white throat and grayish streaking on the underparts.

It is one of the earliest migrants in spring, showing up often before the trees have leafed out. It inhabits deciduous and mixed woodlands especially damp woodlands. Its song is a high pitched “wee-see wee-see wee-see” and its calls are a soft “tseet” and a sharp “pit.”

The female lays four to five creamy eggs, circled with brown marks in a grassy cup nest with leaves and moss. It is placed on the ground near the base of a tree or under fallen branches.

Birds at the lake
I spent the first full week of July at the family camp on Lake Winnisquam in Meredith, N.H. I saw and heard loons every day, but I did not see any chicks. A loon pair nests every year on a floating

platform located in a roped off section of a cove on the west shore of the lake. I also saw one or two cormorants and a few seagulls.

One day while rowing on the lake I saw a bald eagle swoop down, grab a fish from the water and fly to one of the tall pine trees near the shore. It landed in a tree where I could not see it. A previous summer, I watched one grab a fish and land in a pine tree where I could watch it. When finished, it flew to a rocky area where it could wash its beak and talons in the water. I also saw a great blue heron flying near the water. It landed on the opposite shore.

Pileated woodpeckers
Last week, while feeding my chickens, I heard a woodpecker hammering loudly. I spotted a pileated woodpecker at the bottom of a dead hemlock. Wood chips flew as it made a hole. I got an extra treat as a second pileated woodpecker flew out of the woods and landed on the tree. It also started making a hole. I keep hoping to see one or both woodpeckers again, but so far I have not.

Ruby throated hummingbirds
I enjoy watching the hummingbirds at my two nectar feeders. I am cleaning the feeders and adding new boiled sugar and water (one to four ratio of sugar and water) every other day.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100 or emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com.

Letters to the Editor

Laws to remember

Leaving Devine Mercy Church, I stepped off a public sidewalk and fell into a large pothole; ambulance and Police arrived. I broke my leg and missed 13 weeks of work. We contacted a lawyer to find out our options to receive compensation.

The lawyer said to contact the Town of Palmer, and file an accident report. Shortly after, I received a letter from the Town’s Insurance Company denying my claim for two reasons:

One falls under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts General Laws, specifically Chapter 84, Section 18-19, which requires that written notice of presentment of my claim must have been given to the Town within 30 days from the date of the accident.

Second “claims for defects in public roads and ways fall under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 84, 15-19. This statute outlines circumstances under which a municipality may be legally liable for damages arising from said defects. In order for a municipality to be legally liable, they must have had notice of the defect or want of repair, prior to your loss, and must have failed to remedy the defect within a reasonable time frame”. In other words, the town is not liable if the DPW does not do their job in filling these holes.

Call the town to report a pothole otherwise they are not liable. The agent said you cannot file an appeal, their first decision is final, I should be aware of all laws and I should watch where I walk!

Donna Alix
Three Rivers

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Questions about working while collecting benefits

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: In 2019 I was out of work for an extended period. I was eligible to begin receiving retirement benefits (at age 63) and started to do so in August. My part-time job was limited so it did not conflict with my Social Security amount, but in October through the end of 2019 I went back to my old industry at four times the pay rate. My understanding is that I will need to pay Social Security back about \$1.40 for every benefit dollar they have paid me while I worked at the higher wage. When and how is that paid? Signed: Part Time Again

Dear Part Time Again: If you started your Social Security benefits in August of last year at age 63, for the remainder of 2019 you were subject to the “first year rule” which means you had a monthly earnings limit of \$1,470 after your benefit started. If you exceeded that monthly limit starting in October of 2019 and for the rest of the year, you won’t be entitled to benefits for the months of October, November and December. Social Security will consider that an overpayment, and they will want you to repay all those benefits to them. However, if it would be to your advantage to do so, you can request that Social Security use the annual earnings limit for 2019, instead of the monthly limit. For example, if using the 2019 annual earnings limit (\$17,640) would result in a smaller impact to your benefits, Social Security may accommodate your request to use the annual limit. Depending upon your total earnings in 2019, you may want to consider asking that the annual earnings limit be used, instead of the monthly limit, when determining your 2019 impact for exceeding the earnings limit.

Starting in 2020 you’ll be subject to an annual limit of \$18,240 (limit changes yearly). If you exceed the annual limit, SS will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. If you’ve again stopped working at the higher amount, and now only working part-time and won’t earn more than \$18,240 for this year, you’ll not be subject to the annual limit. But exceeding the 2019 monthly limit last year will still affect you.

You will receive a form from Social Security asking you to specify your 2019 income month by month for the months you were receiving benefits. Since you exceeded the monthly limit from October through December, they’ll be asking you to repay all of the benefits you received for those months. They will give you the option of either repaying them in full in a lump sum, or they will recover what you owe by withholding your monthly benefits until the overpayment is satisfied. That will mean you’ll go some months without benefits, the number of months dependent upon your monthly benefit amount and how much you owe them. Remember, you have the option to request the annual limit if it will benefit you.

Though you’ll lose benefits for some number of months now, when you reach your full retirement age (66 years and 4 months) they will automatically give you time credit for the number of months they withheld benefits and move your SS claim date forward. That will increase your monthly benefit amount slightly, and you’ll get that slightly higher benefit for the rest of your life.

One final point: In the year you reach your full retirement age the annual earnings limit will go up by about 2.5 times and the penalty for exceeding it will be less (\$1 for every \$3 over the limit). And when you reach your full retirement age the earnings limit goes away entirely.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The *Journal Register* welcomes readers to participate in this year’s election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to dfarm-er@turley.com. Please include a day-time telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday’s newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Elise Linscott at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor’s Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact Lisa Marulli, 413-283-8393 or lmarrulli@turley.com, about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
elinscott@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

The Journal Register

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Elise Linscott
elinscott@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Lisa Marulli
lmarrulli@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA
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Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Police Department made four arrests or summons from July 21 to July 27. Those arrested will appear in Palmer District Court at a future date and are innocent until proven guilty.

July 22:

Stephen D. Kirby, 21, of 25 Dublin St., Palmer, was arrested on North Main Street on a warrant.

July 24:

Deryck Y. Otero, 22, of 59 Water St., Milford, Mass., was arrested at 5:05 p.m. on North Main Street for uninsured motor vehicle (criminal); unregistered motor vehicle and license not in possession.

Martin W. Henrich, 42, homeless, was arrested at 7:23 p.m. on Pleasant Street for vandalizing property, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

July 26:

Robert M. Zajac, 34, of 16 Gay St. Apt. 4 in Thorndike, was arrested at 10:12 p.m. on High Street on OUI liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; number plate violation to conceal ID; uninsured motor vehicle (criminal); unregistered

motor vehicle and a marked lanes violation.

MONSON

The Monson Police Department made 12 arrests or summons from July 19 to July 25. Those arrested will appear in Palmer District Court at a future date and are innocent until proven guilty.

July 20:

Devon C. Mudway, 25, of 260 Laconia St. in Springfield, was arrested at 12:20 a.m. on OUI liquor; possession of a Class B drug; and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Michael Douglas, 26 of 233 Somers Road in East Longmeadow, was arrested for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

July 21:

Jennifer R. Hannum, 25, of 289 South Ctr. in Windsor Locks, Conn., was arrested at 6:20 p.m. for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

July 22:

John R. Gould, 60, of Russell, N.Y., was arrested at 2:43 a.m. for unlicensed operation of a motor ve-

hicle and a number plate violation.

Giovanni T. Pagan, 32, of 85 Covington St. in Springfield, was arrested at 8:43 a.m. on operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

July 23:

Jason J. Lozada, 35, of 138 Gillette Ave in Springfield, was arrested at 10:47 p.m. on OUI liquor.

July 25:

Ann T. Cutler, 40, of 192 Old West Warren in Warren, was arrested at 2:21 a.m. on a warrant.

Brittanie E. Moro, 29, of 1051 Pine St. in Palmer, was arrested at 2:57 p.m. on unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and no inspection sticker.

Robert J. Stanley, 55, of 25 NW 23rd Pl. #321, Portland, Ore., was arrested at 3:30 p.m. on a warrant.

Haley R. Fountain, 23, of 19 Knox St. in Palmer, was arrested at 6:21 p.m. for trespassing on state/county property.

Chelsea E. Fountain, 31, of 7 Park Ave. in Monson, was arrested on trespassing on state/county property.

Kristen D. Shand, 37, of 75 Warren St. in New Haven, Conn., was also arrested for trespassing on state/county property.

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to 12 calls between July 21 - 28.

July 23:

At 7:20 a.m., the department responded to a medical assist on Ware Street and returned to service at 8:05.

At 4:55 p.m., a vehicle was dispatched; the call was cancelled while en route to Fletcher Street and was back in service at 4:57 p.m.

July 24:

At 6:07 p.m., the department responded to a medical assist on Shearer Street and returned to services at 6:30 p.m.

At 9:54 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Walnut Street and returned to service at 10:23 p.m.

July 25:

At 2:50 p.m., the department responded to a medical assist on Randall Street and was back in service at 3:08 p.m.

July 26:

At 6:39 p.m., there was an alarm activation on Thorndike Street. The department was back in services at 6:50 p.m.

At 6:58 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Country Lane and was back in services at 7:23 p.m.

At 10:15 p.m. the call was cancelled while en route to Wright Street, back in services at 10:35 p.m.

July 27:

At 4:01 p.m., the department was dispatched for a medical assist on North Main Street and was back in service at 4:14 p.m.

At 4:14, the department responded to a medical assist on Beacon Street and was back in service at 4:18 p.m.

At 11:02 p.m., there was a gas leak on First Street (Bonds ville mutual aid). The department was back in service at 12:07 a.m.

July 28:

At 11:21 a.m., there was a smoke detector activation on Summer Street. The department was back in service at 12:05 p.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to five incidents from July 21 – 28.

On July 21 at 10:25 a.m., the department responded to an oven malfunction on Maple Street, returning to service at 10:45 a.m.

On July 23 at 10:13 p.m., there was a call for a smoke detector activation on Springfield St. The department returned to service at 10:35 p.m.

On July 24 at 10:27 a.m., there was a call for an EMS incident on Burlingame Rd. The department was back in service at 10:46 a.m.

On July 25 at 1:57 p.m., there was a call for an EMS incident on Off Lariviere St. The department was back in service at 2:15 p.m.

On July 27 at 10:58 p.m., there was a call for mutual aid to the Bonds ville Fire Department. The department was back in service at 12:17 a.m.

BONDSVILLE

From July 21 - 27, the Bonds ville Fire Department responded to four calls.

On July 24 at 9:39 p.m., the department responded to Emery Street for a medical assist. The department returned to service at 9:52 p.m.

At 1 a.m., the duty officer re-

sponded to Stewart Street to assist Palmer police. The duty officer returned to service at 1:36 a.m.

On July 26 at 12:25 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for an animal rescue. The department returned to service at 12:50 a.m.

On July 27 at 10:37 p.m., the department responded to First Street for a propane gas leak. The department returned to service at 12:30 a.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to six fire calls and 14 EMS calls for the week of July 20 – 26.

On July 21 at 3:55 a.m., the Department responded to 43 Margret St for a fire alarm activation. The Department returned in service at 4:33 a.m.

On July 22 at 1:45 p.m., the Department responded to the area of 94 Main St for a chemical spill. The Department returned in service at 1:56 p.m.

On July 22 at 11:23 p.m., the Department responded to 127 Hovey Rd for a fire alarm activation. The Department returned in service at 12:24 a.m.

On July 23 at 7:56 a.m., the Department responded to 216 Main St for a fire alarm activation. The Department returned in service at 8:15 a.m.

On July 23 at 2:54 p.m., the Department responded to 21 Washington St for a fire alarm activation. The Department returned in service at 3:09 p.m.

On July 25 at 3:00 p.m., the Department responded mutual aid to Wales for a structure fire at 29 Birch Lane. The Department returned in service at 5:15 p.m.

STCC launches new Water Distribution course; second in series

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College will offer an online course this fall to prepare students for careers in the drinking water industry and to help those working in the field enhance their skills.

The course, called Concepts & Practices of Drinking Water Distribution, is being offered through the Workforce Development Center at STCC in partnership with the Massachusetts Water Works Association and the Springfield Water & Sewer Commission. The training, which runs Sept. 14-Dec. 4, is free for students enrolled in any community college in Massachusetts. Individuals not enrolled at a community college as well as employees at water utilities can register for the class for a fee.

This is the second in a series of courses designed for careers in the water industry. Last fall, a water treatment course was offered in a similar self-paced online format. Students who completed the training last fall touted the course's effectiveness and flexibility. The water distribution course will include weekly videos, readings, discussion topics and quizzes.

"The pace allows for people new to the industry to take time to

fully read and learn the material in addition to the videos of each module," one former student said.

Another former student said, "I took your self-paced online Basic Water Treatment course last fall. Since then I got my D4 and T2 licenses as well as a promotion to chemist."

Instructor Daniel Laprade, of the Massachusetts Water Works Association, has been working in the drinking water field for more than 35 years and has been an instructor for over 15 years.

He said demand for trained employees in the water drinking industry continues to grow as older workers retire.

"It's an exciting and rewarding career," he said. "Workers will face challenges as communities deal with aging infrastructure. Training such as the type we offer with STCC and the Springfield Water & Sewer Commission is critical to attracting new individuals to the field and enhancing the skills of new and existing employees."

The 12-week training will help prepare students to take the Massachusetts Drinking Water Operator Grade 2, 3 and 4 Distribution license exams. Licensure is necessary for beginning a career in

the drinking water industry. This course is approved by the Massachusetts Board of Certification of Drinking Water Operators.

Material covered includes hydrology, source waters, basic math and chemistry, regulations, water sampling, hydraulics, distribution system components (pipes, valves, pumps, tanks, meters), equipment operation and maintenance, safety and administrative duties.

Someone with a Massachusetts water operator distribution license can work in such positions as:

Water Construction & Repair Technician

Construction Foreman

Equipment Operation & Maintenance Specialist

Water Quality Technician

SCADA, GIS or Instrumentation Specialist

Water Systems Manager

Students who complete the water course can consider continuing their education in fields such as civil engineering, urban studies, software development, business administration and more.

To enroll online, visit stcc.edu/water. To enroll in person or for more information, please call (413) 755-4225 or email wdc@stcc.edu.

MEMA offers hurricane season preparedness tips

REGION – MEMA is working closely with the Department of Public Health and the newly established Pandemic Disaster Mass Care Working Group to develop guidance for evacuations and mass care during COVID-19. This guidance will be provided to municipalities to inform their planning and preparedness for hurricane season and will be used to adjust the Commonwealth's mass care and evacuation plans to help keep individuals both safe and healthy during a disaster.

Working in partnership with the Emergency Support Function Team and with local partners some of the steps MEMA is taking to prepare for the 2020 hurricane season during COVID-19 include re-evaluating capacities of state-initiated regional shelter sites; preparing for the need for additional evacuation transportation vehicles; adding screening, sanitization, disinfection, and general public health protocols to existing mass care plans; and planning for and preparing to provide sheltering in non-congregate settings such as hotels.

Massachusetts has defined hurricane evacuation zones, designated as Zone A, Zone B and Zone C, for areas of the state at risk for storm surge flooding associated with tropical storms or hurricanes. If evacuations are necessary because of a tropical storm or hurricane, local or state officials will notify people living, working, or vacationing in evacuation zones to leave the area for their safety. Even areas not directly along a coastline may be at risk for storm surge flooding during a tropical storm or hurricane. Find out if you live, work, or vacation in a hurricane evacuation zone by visiting

the 'Know Your Zone' interactive map located on MEMA's website at www.mass.gov/knowyourzone.

Residents should develop a plan with the members of their household to prepare for what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate in a tropical storm or hurricane. An emergency plan should include: meeting locations, emergency contact information, evacuation plans, shelter-in-place plans and considerations for family members with access and functional needs, and pets.

For more information, people should see: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/make-a-family-emergency-plan>.

Build an emergency kit containing items that will sustain you and your family in the event you are isolated for three to five days without power or unable to go to a store. Emergency kits are particularly important during hurricane season, due to potential extended power outages, flooding, and impassable debris-covered roads. While it is important to customize your kit to meet the unique needs of you and your family, every emergency kit should include bottled water, food,

a flashlight, a radio and extra batteries, a first aid kit, sanitation items, and clothing. Depending on your family's needs, emergency kits should also include medications, extra eyeglasses, medical equipment and supplies, children's items such as diapers and formula, food and supplies for pets and service animals, and other items you or your family members might need during a disaster. For a complete emergency kit checklist, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/build-an-emergency-kit>.

Receiving advance warnings and timely emergency alerts and information from public officials is critical to staying safe during a tropical storm or hurricane. Every family should have multiple methods for receiving emergency alerts. Learn more about different types of alerting and information tools including the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, Social Media and Traditional Media, 2-1-1 Hotline, Local Notification Systems: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts>.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Central processing unit
- Of (French)
- Autonomic nervous system
- Type of bean
- Accuse formally of a crime
- Promote
- Type of lava
- Meat from a deer
- Herbaceous plants
- Potato state
- Helsinki neighborhood
- Sports officials
- Shout wildly

31. Reptile genus

- Frocks
- Born of
- N. Scandinavian indigenous people
- Poultry cage
- Aquatic insect genus
- Of I
- Ad __: tirelessly repetitive
- Item
- Produce
- Seedless raisin
- Bond in a third party's control
- Legendary character __ Finn
- Space station
- Note at the end of a letter
- In a way, contradicted

58. Midway between northeast and east

- Bears important traffic
- Brooklyn hoopster
- Presides
- Artist's tool
- On a higher floor
- Commercial
- Something to watch
- Chased
- Commercial producers
- Keyboard instrument
- Blue grass state
- Phonograph recording
- Unusual
- Popular average
- A native or

inhabitant of Asia

- N. Sweden river
- Related on the mother's side
- Mediator
- Partner of to
- Arm bones
- Korean seafood dish
- Tap of the foot
- Astronauts
- Carolina footballer
- Indiana city
- Of or relating to bears
- Not widely known
- Body part
- At the peak
- High-pitched cries of a cat
- A way to intimidate
- Prosecutor
- Atomic #66



Outside of Old Mill Pond School were several cars full of grateful parents and hungry kids and teens.



Workers of the Palmer Public School Summer Lunch Program restocking their food supply.

LUNCH | from page 1

Since Herring works at Kids Corner during the regular school year and Sloat works there during the summer, both were interested in working at this summer program.

“Cathy contacted me and asked me if I would want to work and of course I said yes,” said Herring. Sloat added to this and said she was “automatically interested” in participating in this program because it’s helping children.

Their responsibilities include setting up the umbrellas that provide the outdoor volunteers shade, bringing out coolers, bringing out lunches to the program recipients and giving out little gifts such as coloring books to bring some cheer to the children.

They both said they have been enjoying their time volunteering for this program. “We get to see some of the kids come through the line that we would normally get to see, but since we’ve been in lockdown, we haven’t been able to see them,” said Herring. “It’s been great to be able to see those kids and interact

with them.” Sloat added to this and said she likes to see the kids smile, as well as the appreciation of the parents.

Parent Tracy Pobiegllo, who is a regular recipient, is grateful for the program, which has provided freshly cooked meals for her daughters.

“It’s actually been part of our routine since being home in March,” said Pobiegllo. “We’ve been coming out every day and it gets us out of the house, and the girls look forward to new treats for lunch and snacks every day, so it’s been nice.”

The Summer Lunch Program will be taking place until August 7. The pickup site for cold breakfast and cold lunch is located Converse Middle School, located on 24 Converse St. and takes place from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The drive-through site for a cold breakfast and hot lunch is located at Old Mill Pond School, located on 4107 Main St. and goes from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Les also said the meals are free to recipients under the age of 18.



Turley Publications staff photo by Jonah Snowden

Courtesy Photo
Occasionally, volunteers of the Palmer Public Schools Summer Lunch Program provide a fun theme to go with their distributed meals.



Siblings Jerry and Desiree Smith, celebrating the one-year anniversary of Treasure Chest Emporium and Small Town Custom Treasures being open.



Sarah and Mary B. Shirzadi of Sassy's Catering providing the public with some treats.



Joe Rollins and Alexis Mooney taking a break from the festivities and enjoying some of Sassy's Catering's food.



Palmer Food Share Inc. director Pat Bachand being interviewed by Bruce Marshall of Classic Hits 97.7 FM.

Promote Palmer, an event intended to raise money for the Palmer Food Share Inc. and celebrate the one-year anniversary of Treasure Chest Emporium and Small Town Custom Treasures being open.



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden

PALMER | from page 1

Since opening on July 6, 2019, siblings Jerry and Desiree Smith has provided different services through their two-sided shop. Through Treasure Chest Emporium, Jerry provides customers a wide variety of items, including stoneware, air conditioners, sports equipment, and more. As for Custom Treasures, Desiree specializes in creating personalized car and wall decals, glassware, signs, coasters and more.

Regarding reaching this milestone, Jerry said “this past year has been such a great experience.”

“Never in my life would I have expected to get this far,” said Jerry. “I’m starting to love the town of Palmer. Everyone’s very nice to us; they’re all very friendly.”

Regarding getting to celebrate this accomplishment at Promote Palmer, Jerry said he can’t describe how thankful he is for Demore’s Automotive and believes it’s a great thing for them to do, for a “small business that just started out.”

Similar sentiments of gratitude were shared with Pat Bachand, director of Palmer Food Share Inc., who was also given the opportunity to briefly speak with Bruce Marshall of Classic Hits 97.7 FM and let the public know she is looking for volunteers to help distribute food during the regular hours of operation and to help with truck unloads every third Friday.

“I’m getting a lot of calls from my volunteers that their doctors do not want them to come in and work,” said Bachand. “If I could get new volunteers, it would be wonderful.”

During her interview with Marshall, Bachand said anyone interested in volunteering can call 413-283-3614 for more details.

Attendees, such as Alexis Mooney, were also happy to attend and enjoy Promote Palmer, since this event that benefits local entities.

“It makes it a fun experience,” said Mooney.

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MIAA

Fall high school sports delayed through September

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – In what is a very ominous sign for the future of high school sports in the 2020-2021 school year, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association has postponed the beginning of fall sports to the middle of September.

Last Tuesday, a virtual meeting of the MIAA Board of Directors took place, with a unanimous vote in favor of moving the state date of fall sports to Sept. 14. This means actual

contests may not be played until the end of September. This could result in almost only a half season of action in fall sports, and some sports could still be cancelled altogether.

The state and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is planning to issue additional guidance in the coming month which could change how the MIAA approaches fall sports.

Currently, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is in Phase 3 of its re-opening plan, but Phase 3 is to remain stalled until either an impactful

treatment or a vaccine for COVID-19 is developed and available for the public at large, allowing life to seemingly return to normal.

In Phase 3, Gov. Charlie Baker and his administration have labeled soccer, football, and basketball as sports that are “high-risk” and involve too much close contact. Effectively, while practices can occur, all contests of those three sports are banned currently. The guidance specifically bans the sports at the recreational and “amateur” level, but does not specifically ban them at the high school level.

Part of the rationale in delaying the start of fall sports is for the DESE to wrap its head around the actual opening of school, and to determine whether or not learning will take place online, in-school, or hybrid of the two. Once that is determined, the MIAA will have to figure out how athletic practices and contests will work in a situation like that, including determining eligibility for students “attending school” and dealing with transportation.

The MIAA has a COVID-19 Task Force that is working with the

state government and collecting guidance and information regularly. It was the task force that made the Sept. 14 recommendation to the MIAA BOD.

The season was originally supposed to start on Aug. 21.

Other concepts that have been explored was the possibility of playing baseball and softball in fall season and moving soccer and football to spring. The idea was turned down in the early stages out of risk that a baseball or softball player could “lose two seasons.”

The board also unanimously

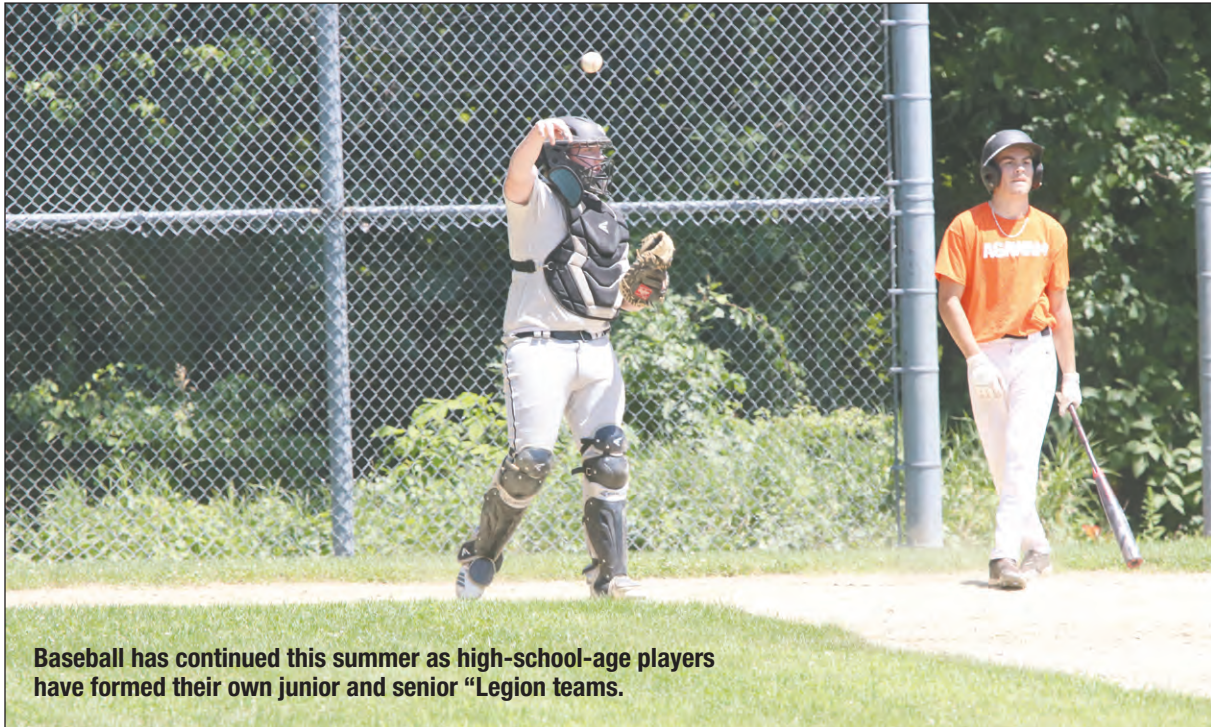
passed a recommendation to suspend the end-of-game handshakes until further notice to reduce contact between teams.

Currently, only high school-age baseball and some softball tournaments are being played in Massachusetts with sanitization and social distancing being adhered to.

Among sports that could be played in the fall currently are volleyball, cross country, field hockey, and golf. It is not yet known if high school students will be allowed to play football or soccer this fall.

SUMMER

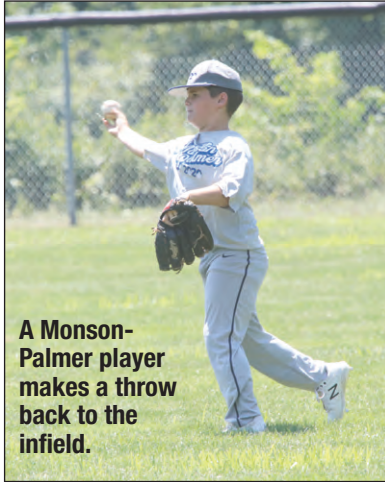
High school baseball action continues



Baseball has continued this summer as high-school-age players have formed their own junior and senior “Legion teams.”



An Agawam player makes a backhand play at shortstop.



A Monson-Palmer player makes a throw back to the infield.



Baseball was played in Monson, Greenfield, and other locations on a bright Sunday afternoon.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Umpires continue to work from behind the mound calling balls and strikes.

HIGH SCHOOL

Pinehurst Resort to host Golf National Invitational

BOSTON – Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina will host both the Boys and Girls 2020 High School Golf National Invitational, August 3-5. Participants will come from more than 40 states—more than 110 girls and 250 boys—to compete in a three-round, 54-hole, stroke-play format.

The High School Golf National Invitational showcases golf at the highest level, bringing together the strongest and most diverse field in high school golf from large, small, public and private high school programs across the United States. It was first played in 2019, with 300 boys and girls representing 43 states. Competitors include State Championship winning boys and girls players; the nation’s best high school golf teams; and top individuals from each state. With the loss of the spring 2020 high school golf season, this event is even more important to showcase the most talented high school golfers from across America.

The Boys and Girls National Invitational will be played on Pinehurst’s No. 6, No. 8 and No. 9 courses, and include team and individual

GOLF | page 7

AUTO RACING

Hirschman takes win at Star Speedway

EPPING, N.H. — Matt Hirschman wasn’t about to be denied. The Pennsylvania native, who is no stranger to Victory Lane on the Tri Track Open Modified Series circuit, returned to glory on Saturday night at Star Speedway in the ninth annual SBM race.

But the ride to victory wasn’t one that came without difficulty, especially at the end. Hirschman dominated the beginning, taking the lead on lap 25 and leading through lap 83, before a controlled caution slowed the race. While some elected to stay out, Hirschman worked to pit road for a fresh Hoosier tire, the charge started back to the front from ninth position. He would eventually pass Matt Swanson for the top spot on a restart at lap 112 and never look back.

It was the fifth win in the prestigious event for Hirschman, who is one of just two drivers to compete in all previous SBM races. The race was 121 laps, in honor of track owner and operator Bobby Webber’s son Tim Webber, who turned 21-years-old the week of the race.

The purse for the event was over \$40,000, a figure that didn’t change post-COVID pandemic. Due to COVID-19, and guidance from the state of New Hampshire,

Star Speedway ran at 50% capacity for the event in the grandstands, and sold out. Tri Track and Star officials made sure that all social distancing and safe health practices were in place.

“I’ve always enjoyed coming here, winning the first time I have ever come here, and having all of this success I’ve had in this SBM race after that,” Hirschman said. “Going back to the original races, it was, and has been, a big deal for us.”

Swanson, who started 27th after earning a provisional into the race, played a different strategy than Hirschman did, and it almost paid off. Swanson elected not to pit as part of the controlled caution period on lap 83, and took over the lead when most others went down pit road. Swanson led the race from lap 83-112, before Hirschman took control when Swanson spun his tires on the restart.

Swanson would finish second, while Andy Jankowiak, who played a similar strategy and stayed out, finished third. Jankowiak was involved in a wreck on lap 25 with veteran Dave Sapienza, but was able to rebound.

STAR | page 7

AUTO RACING

Fellows picks up another win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Modified ace Ben Byrne earned his second victory lap of the summer Saturday, July 25, topping the 40-lap main event on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway.

Aaron Fellows stayed undefeated this season, winning a thriller in the Late Model Sportsmen, while the Curtis twins, Chase and Jaret, finished one-two in the Street Stocks to increase their standings atop the points parade.

Gordon Farnum topped the Mini Stocks for the third time this summer, and Pure Stock kingpin Chris Davis put a string of recent misfortunes behind him, romping to victory Friday. Short track legend Randy Cabral won the 30-lap NEMA Midget feature, with Avery Stohr victorious in the NEMA Lites.

Defending Sportsman Modified champion Todd Patnode and Keith Carzello led the 18-car NHSTRA field to the green, with Patnode – fresh off nightmare outings in each of the previous two weeks – set on reversing his fortunes.

To that end, the Swanzy hot shoe set a torrid pace for the first 13 go-rounds. Brian Chapin took the lead on lap 14 and, the next time around, Patnode pitted under green, moving Byrne up to second, with points leader and previous

week’s winner Brian Robie in close tow.

Byrne was relentless over the next 18 circuits, finally taking the lead from the top lane on lap 32, with Chapin then bobbling on a restart to move Robie up to second, from where he would add to his points lead, earning valuable breathing room ahead of Trevor Bleau, who finished 15th on the night.

A week earlier, Aaron Fellows kept his undefeated season intact by passing Cole Littlewood with only two laps to go en route to Late Model Sportsman victory lane. Friday, he again passed Littlewood late in the game, this time on turn three of the final lap to add more luster to his unblemished record.

Littlewood, third a week earlier, held on for second Friday, with Robert Hagar coming home third. Willie Kuhn and Justin Littlewood completed the top five.

Hillary Renaud, gunning for two in a row in the sizzling Streets, led the first 14 circuits of her 25-lapper but then blinked, quickly finding herself back in fourth as the flying Curtis twins, Chase and Jaret, stormed past, bringing Tommy O’Sullivan with them.

It was Chase Curtis first under the checkers, with his points-leading sibling Jaret riding in his shad-



Submitted photos

Ben Byrne was a winner again in the sportsman modified race.

ow. Renaud’s fourth-place run moved her up to fifth in points. Friday’s victory was Chase Curtis’ second of the summer, with both his father Chris and brother Jaret also having topped Street Stock features.

It took Gordon Farnum eight laps to come from row three to the point in the Mini Stock feature but, once there, he checked out on the field to score his third win of the summer. Kevin Clayton, strong all night, came home second, just ahead of Mark Panaroni.

Pure Stock powerhouse Chris

Davis shook the late-race bugaboos that had plagued him in recent weeks Friday, taking control on lap two and then checking out. While Davis made it look easy, a tight battle raged behind him, with Mike Douglas emerging strong to cop the runner-up honors, just in front of Claremont regular Dylan Adams, who made his high-banks debut successful in third.

In the night’s Iron Mike Memorial NEMA Midget main event, open-wheel legend Randy Cabral

RACING | page 7

CAMPUS NOTES

Lachapelle honored by Western New England University's College of Arts & Sciences

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University is pleased to announce the 2020 College of Arts & Sciences Senior Awards. Students receiving awards are selected for a significant contribution to the department.

Nathan L. Lachapelle of Holland has been awarded the Hoyt Warner Computer Science Book Award by Western New England University College of Arts & Sciences. This award is determined by overall grade-point average and an evaluation by the Computer Science faculty, who consider the student's potential for graduate study in Computer Science or a related field, and the student's service to the department.

Malo honored by Western New England University's College of Business

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University is pleased to announce the 2020 College of Business Senior Awards. Students receiving awards are selected for a significant contribution made to the department.

Julia Malo, of Monson, has been awarded the Outstanding Student in Marketing Award by Western New England University's College of Business.

Palmer resident named to UMass Lowell dean's list

LOWELL – Parth Patel of Palmer has been recognized for achieving academic distinction at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Patel, majoring in undeclared business, was named to the dean's list at UMass Lowell for the spring 2020 semester.

Omar Jimenez Soto of Palmer completes first year at Lasell University

NEWTON, Mass. – Omar Jimenez Soto of Palmer completed their first year at Lasell University in Newton, Mass.

Jimenez Soto joined the Lasell community for the 2019-2020 academic year. The University looks forward to their continued success!

Nichols College to provide free COVID-19 testing as part of return-to-campus plan

DUDLEY, Mass. – In careful preparation for its return to campus operations this fall, Nichols College has committed to providing free regular COVID-19 testing for students, faculty, and staff.

The testing is part of a comprehensive plan designed to help ensure the safety of the college community. Other initiatives include the incorporation of personal protection equipment, such as plexiglass shields and other modifications to classrooms and commons areas to promote social distancing, mask distribution, intensified cleaning protocols, and the responsibility for proper safety and hygiene expected of each community member.

Nichols has teamed up with

the Broad Institute, a partnership of MIT and Harvard University, to supply test kits and process results. The tests will a self-administered nasal swab conducted in a designated campus testing center under the supervision of Nichols' health personnel. Resident students, student-athletes, and higher-risk individuals will be tested twice a week; commuter students, faculty, staff, and contracted employees will be tested once a week. Test results are expected within 24-48 hours. Protocols for self-isolation and contact tracing have been put in place.

Nichols is incurring the cost of \$25-\$30 per test for the estimated 350 tests per day.

"The continued health and safety of our college community is

our primary concern," said Nichols College President Susan West Engelkemeyer, Ph.D. "Our plan, including a regular testing regime in combination with a range of universal safety practices, and protocols for any positive test results, is the most effective way to protect our community and afford students the educational experience they value and expect."

Since more than 80 percent of Nichols students hail from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut, the college also continues to monitor regional data on positive COVID-19 cases to inform on-going plans to return to campus on August 26.

UMass Amherst will make standardized tests optional for first-year applicants

AMHERST – Beginning with the spring 2021 term and continuing for each spring and fall term through spring 2023, the University of Massachusetts Amherst will make standardized tests optional for its first year entering applicants.

For the past several months, the university has monitored how possible, safe and secure it will be for students to take the SAT or ACT.

James Roche, vice provost for enrollment management, said that in recent weeks it has become obvious that the challenges to testing presented by the coronavirus pandemic will persist in the months ahead.

"UMass Amherst draws applications from throughout the world and few, if any, states and countries currently offer testing sites that provide the access and safety that students, families, and schools have come to expect," he said. "This is especially true for students who already encounter barriers in pursuit of a college education, including under-represented minority, first-generation, and low-in-

come students. Given all these considerations, going test optional is clearly the right choice."

Historically, UMass Amherst has used a holistic review to evaluate applicants. The quantitative assessment component of that review was done using a formula that combined the applicant's high school GPA and the best combination of test scores. Roche said the university's research shows that of the separate components, the high school GPA is a stronger predictor of student performance, persistence and success; however, it is also known that the combination of the two components provides an even stronger predictor than either the GPA or test score alone.

The university has analyzed three years of data and more than 100,000 applicant records to develop a formula for its test-optional assessment that uses the high school GPA as the base. For applicants who either have or will submit test scores, UMass Amherst will compare the result of the formula with and without the test score included and give the applicant the highest

value of the two. This test-optional approach applies to all majors. As it always has, UMass Amherst will continue to consider the rigor of students' high school coursework in its assessment, especially for courses that apply most directly to the applicant's intended major.

Roche said, "UMass Amherst has committed to being test-optional for the next three years. As one of the country's top-25 public research universities, we look forward to using the test-optional approach during this period to learn more about the relationship between high school grades and standardized test scores, and to develop even better models for predicting student success in college. Our mission is to identify and recruit students who can grow and thrive at UMass Amherst, progressing to earn their degree as effectively and efficiently as possible."

Additional information about UMass Amherst's test-optional approach can be found at <https://www.umass.edu/admissions/test-optional-policy>.

WNEU announces changes to Fall Semester Academic Calendar

SPRINGFIELD – With the goal of preventing the spread of COVID-19, Western New England University has announced changes to the academic calendar for the fall semester.

University President Anthony S. Caprio notified

students of the institution's plans in an email, citing the rising trend line of new COVID-19 cases across the country. The changes include a move to online instruction and final exams following the Thanksgiving break, as well as holding classes on Labor Day and the traditional two-day fall break around Columbus Day. Western New England previously announced its intent to resume face-to-face instruction and welcome students back to campus with the start of the fall semester August 31.

"The decision to modify the fall calendar was precipitated by the concern that mass migrations off-and-on campus attributable to the three originally scheduled breaks - Labor Day, Fall Break, and the Thanksgiving holiday - could contribute to higher COVID-19 exposure and infections among members of our campus community," wrote Caprio.

While the final week of classes and final exams will be conducted exclusively online, the campus will remain open and students will have the option of returning to utilize the residence halls and the full range of the University's academic resources. The campus will be open during the Thanksgiving break as well for those students who wish to remain in their residence hall over the holiday.

"These changes will allow students and their families to determine what is in their own best interest," said Curt Hamakawa, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. "Students who want to utilize our libraries, laboratories, dining facilities, and other resources will have that option."

Under the revised schedule, fall semester undergraduate classes will conclude December 4, one week earlier than previously scheduled. The following week will be a reading period, with final exams conducted December 14-18.

The University is also implementing changes at the start of the semester. All students will be tested for COVID-19 prior to the start of classes. In order to decrease congestion and increase social distancing, new and returning students will have the option of making an appointment to drop off their personal belongings at their residence hall during special "Drop-off days" August 10-21. Move-in for incoming first-year students has been expanded from one to two days August 26 and 27, with returning students moving in August 28 and 29. All students will be assigned a designated move-in time, and the number of guests will be limited to avoid congestion.

The University has implemented a dedicated helpline to answer questions related to its reopening plans. Students are invited to call 413-782-1321 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

GOLF ■ from page 7

competitions. Pinehurst Resort is steeped in tradition and has hosted some of golf's greatest events, including the PGA Championship, Ryder Cup, U.S. Open, Women's U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur.

"It's really incredible to bring the 2020 High School Golf National Invitational to Pinehurst Resort, where the players can experience one of the best golf facilities in the world," said NHSGA Manager Chris Noble. "This event is the pinnacle of high school golf and valuable to college coaches seeking hidden talent they may not see on the junior golf circuit otherwise, especially during an unprecedented year like this."

Last year, the Girls Invitational went down to the wire, with a two-hole playoff for the top high school teams, after South Carolina and California totaled two-day team scores of 584. The four-on-four aggregate team playoff was won with a birdie on the final hole by tournament medalist Kamille Dimayuga (Buena Park, Calif.), who shot consecutive rounds of 71, to finish with a 2-under par, 142 total.

Virginia won the 2019 Boys Division team title with a two-day score of 581 (291-290). Second place went to Arkansas (592), followed by Pennsylvania (598) in third. Aidan Thomas from Bernalillo, N.M., fired a career-best round 65 on day one of the tournament; and followed with a 70 on day two, to win the individual medalist title with a 9-under par, 135 total.

The High School Golf National Invitational is conducted by the National High School Golf Association (NHSGA), a division of Nextgengolf, which was acquired by the PGA of America in 2019. The Invitational is supported by several partners, including the PGA of America, AJGA, Srixon, Gatorade and Junior Golf Hub.

STAR ■ from page 7

Ronnie Williams started third and finished fourth, and Eric Goodale made his return to the Tri Track Series and rounded out the top five. NASCAR Cup Series regular Ryan Preece was sixth in his return to Modified racing, while Anthony Nocella, Austin Kochenash, Cam McDermott and Ron Silk finished the top-10.

Earlier in the day, Ron Silk, Matt Hirschman, Andy Shaw and Andy Jankowiak won heat races, while Anthony Nocella and Calvin Carroll earned consi wins. Both heat and consi winners collected \$300 courtesy of the Pepsi Challenge.

Swanson, who passed 25 Modifieds en route to the front, earned a \$500 hard charger bonus courtesy of Green Construction. Since pole sitter Austin Kochenash didn't win the race, courtesy of Superior Refinishing, the next race on the circuit will pay a \$600 bonus if the pole sitter wins the race.

The Tri Track Open Modified Series returns to the track on Saturday, August 15, with the second stop of the season at Monadnock Speedway.

RESULTS: Tri Track Open Modified Series; Star Speedway; July 25:

1. Matt Hirschman
2. Matt Swanson
3. Andy Jankowiak
4. Ronnie Williams
5. Eric Goodale
6. Ryan Preece
7. Anthony Nocella
8. Austin Kochenash
9. Cam McDermott
10. Ron Silk
11. Calvin Carroll
12. Kurt Vigeant
13. Kirk Alexander
14. Craig Lutz
15. Bryan Narducci
16. Devin O'Connell
17. Andy Shaw
18. Les Rose Jr.
19. Dylan Izzo
20. Tommy Barrett
21. Dave Sapienza
22. Richard Savary
23. Ryan Doucette
24. Les Hinckley
25. Carl Medeiros Jr.
26. Dana DiMatteo
27. Josh Cantara

RACING ■ from page 7

did what he's done at least once over the last 20 years. Cabral blasted to victory in the caution-free 30-lapper, taking the checkers ahead of Todd Bertrand and early-race leader Paul Scally. Avery Stohr topped the Lites 30-lapper.

Next Saturday, August 1, the Granite State Pro Stock Series will return to the Winchester high banks, where they'll battle in a 100-lap main event. For more information, please visit www.monadnockspeedway.com.

MONADNOCK SPEEDWAY JULY 25 TOP TENS:

SPORTSMAN MODIFIED: Ben Byrne, Brian Robie, Brian Chapin, Keith Carzello, Russ Hersey, Solomon Brown, Cory Plummer, Cameron Houle, Andy Major, Jerry Gomarlo.

PURE STOCK: Chris Davis, Mike Douglas, Dylan Adams, Brandon Lavoie, Nick Houle, Doug Nelson, Cory Lofland, J.D. Stockwell, Reagan Buffum, Jimmy Zellman.

MINI STOCK: Gordon Farnum, Kevin Clayton, Mark Panaroni, Nathan Wenzel, Bill Chaffee, Kevin McKnight, Jake Puchalski, Jared Roy, Jeff Asselin.

STREET STOCK: Chase Curtis, Jaret Curtis, Tommy O'Sullivan, Hillary Renaud, Mike Hopkins, Chris Buffone, Mike Radzuik, Kyle Gero, Paul Barnard, Tim Wenzel.

LATE MODEL SPORTSMAN: Aaron Fellows, Cole Littlewood, Robert Hagar, Willie Kuhn, Justin Littlewood, Ron Laperche, James Beck, Nancy Muni Ruot, Billy McCarthy, Camdyn Curtis.

NEMA MIDGETS (Top 3): Randy Cabral, Todd Bertrand, Paul Scally.

NEMA LITES (Top 3): Avery Stohr, Ryan Locke, P.J. Stergios.



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DEATH NOTICES

Baker, Eugene S.
Died: July 20, 2020
Services are private

Boulanger, Lawrence D.
Died: July 22, 2020
Memorial Service to be held at later date

Desjardins, Mary E.
Died: June 16, 2020
No Services have been planned at this time.

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

O B I T U A R I E S

Eugene S. Baker, 85

BRIMFIELD - Eugene S. Baker, 85, passed away Monday, July 20, 2020 at the home of his daughter, Sandra, surrounded by love of family. Eugene was born May 23, 1935 in Springfield to the late Herbert W. and Nina M. (Stevens) Baker. He was a graduate of Springfield Trade. Eugene was a building contractor and built several area homes in addition, he was a manager and supervisor at Yankee Coach in Palmer for several years. He also was an estimator for asphalt and seal coating construction contractors. Upon his retirement he enjoyed living in South Florida

for many years.

Eugene leaves his son James Baker and his wife Brenda of Brimfield; daughters, Sandra Sheldon of Palmer and Karen Baker of Southbridge; six grandchildren, Jimmy, Daniel, Scott, Katie, Justin, Shane; five great grandchildren and many friends.

The family would like to thank Dr. Marsh and the oncology staff at Baystate Mary Lane and Overlook Hospice for their care and compassion during this



difficult time. Services are private and have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in memory of Eugene S. Baker to the D'Amour Center for Cancer Care, 280 Chestnut St, 6th Floor Springfield, MA 01199. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

Lawrence D. Boulanger, 76

MONSON - Lawrence D. Boulanger, 76, passed away Wednesday, July 22, 2020. Larry was born in Lynn, MA May 14, 1944 to the late Charles and Ruth (Woodman) Boulanger. He was a graduate of Boston University. In his younger years he enjoyed hiking in the White Mountains, tennis, and running marathons. Throughout his life he enjoyed nature, paddling a canoe, ocean breezes, sweet corn, the Red Sox, camping, good New England ice cream, lobster, his eastern MA family, donuts, raising granddaughters, and bad jokes. He had a mischievous smile and was always dapper. Larry has been a resident of Monson since 1969, where he and his wife have raised a family. Larry was a durable medical equipment sales representative

for several companies. He was a member of St Paul's Unitarian Universalist Church in Palmer where he was a member of the board of directors for many years. In his retirement he delivered "Meals on Wheels" for Greater Springfield Senior Services. He was a Type 1 diabetic; he and his family empathize with others challenged by this illness.

Lawrence leaves his wife, Holly E. (Hitt) Boulanger; daughters, Aimee Boulanger (William Patric) of Washington State, Robin Boulanger of Monson, Nicole Boulanger (Daniel Tassinari, Jr) of Springfield; son Saladene Disco-Williams of Ware; four granddaughters, Jeannette Patric, Ila Mera Patric, Isabelle Tassinari and Julia Tassinari. Larry also leaves beloved siblings, sister Jean (Joseph),

and brothers Charles (Marsha) and Robert (Liza) -- and nieces and nephews, all to whom he felt lifelong connection. He was preceded in passing by a beautiful infant daughter he and Holly lost at birth, and his older sister Dwyn; both were cherished and their passing grieved.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation in memory of Lawrence D. Boulanger to the American Cancer Society 3 Speen St. Framingham, MA 01701 (in honor of Larry's mother Ruth). For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

Mary E. Desjardins, 70

THREE RIVERS - Mary E. Desjardins passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by family on June 16 2020. Born January 28 1950, she was the daughter of Steve and Mary Kmiecik. Mary leaves behind her husband Richard Desjardins

of 50 years, stepdaughter Lynn Krantz and Grandson Jeremy Desjardins. She is also survived by sister and best friend Shirley Aubuchan, brother Steven Kmiecik and nephews Steven and John Kmiecik. To honor Mary's request no services

have been planned at this time. Memorial contributions can be made to Second Chance Animal Shelter, 111 Young Road, East Brookfield MA 01515. For more information and online guest book, please visit: www.cebula-funeralhome.com.

The Children's Study Home achieves National Accreditation

SPRINGFIELD – The Children's Study Home has achieved national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA). The Children's Study Home provides a variety of residential, educational and family services in the Berkshires, Greater Springfield and Cape Cod regions. It took The Children's Study Home eighteen months to achieve accreditation. Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services. COA evaluated all aspects of The Children's Study Home's programs, services, management, and administration.

COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an agency's performance. The COA accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization's administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice. The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and

administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

To achieve COA accreditation, The Children's Study Home first provided written evidence of compliance with the COA standards. Thereafter, a group of specially trained volunteer Peer Reviewers confirmed adherence to these standards during a series of on-site interviews with trustees, staff and clients.

Based on their findings, COA's volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted that The Children's Study Home had successfully met the criteria for accreditation.

An endorsement of COA and the value of its accreditation process is reflected in it being named by the US State Department as the sole national independent accrediting body under the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption to accredit intercountry adoption service providers. In addition, COA is the only national accreditor designated

by the U.S. Department of Defense to develop accreditation standards and processes for human service programs provided to military personnel and their families.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. Over 2,000 organizations — voluntary, public, and proprietary; local and statewide; large and small — have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged in the process. Presently, COA has a total of 47 service standards that are applicable to over 125 different types of programs. To learn more about COA, please visit www.coanet.org.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Journal Register, please email dfarmer@turley.com.

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Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls elects new leadership

The Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls has elected new leadership. Gabrielle Jackson, a Springfield resident and Educator, has been elected as HCCSWG Chair.

Jackson was first appointed to the Commission in January of 2020 and serves alongside nine fellow Commissioners. Jackson is excited to serve and continue to support, collaborate and advocate on behalf of women and girls across Hampden County.

In addition to being an educator, Jackson is a dedicated mentor to youth in the community. As an educator and school administrator, she encourages students to aspire to great things such as public service in their community and to support their community with energy, enthusiasm and special gifts. Most of her students are at-risk, and encouraging them to reach their dreams, instilling confidence in themselves and their ability to make "good trouble" and achieve great things. She believes in our students, encouraging them to think beyond themselves; to see themselves as valued contributors to their academic and personal goals.

Jackson is preceded by Commissioner Dawn DiStefano, who served as Chair for two years.

HCCSWG also elected Tara Marshall, a Feeding Hills resident and certified debt management professional, as Secretary. Marshall was also appointed in January, alongside Jackson and fellow Commissioner, Lizzy Ortiz of Springfield.

Marshall has been working in the non-profit credit counseling industry for over 21 years. As one of the Customer Care managers at a nonprofit credit counseling agency located in Agawam, she leads a dedicated team of representatives in a customer service call center that provides quality service to a nationwide client base of over 12,000 consumers. Marshall is preceded by Michelle Gonçalves. They serve alongside Vice Chair Patricia Hallberg of Wilbraham.

Patricia is also the Chief Executive Officer of the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts. Fellow Commissioners include Jennifer Metsch of Longmeadow and Shanique Spalding of Springfield. The Commission plans to continue to work on advocacy that amplifies and provides support of the needs of women and girls during and after the pandemic, through a series of virtual events and in partnership with local organizations.

The Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women



Submitted photo
Gabrielle Jackson, a Springfield resident and educator and new Chair of the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

and Girls is a regional arm of the statewide Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission is an independent state agency that was legislatively created in 1998 to advance the women of the Commonwealth to full equality in all areas of life and to promote their rights and opportunities. HCCSWG serves as a permanent, effective voice for the women and girls of Massachusetts.

Schiffman and collaborators receive NSF grant to collect and analyze COVID-19 droplets

AMHERST – Jessica Schiffman, associate professor of chemical engineering, is collaborating with researchers at the University of Maine to develop a novel bio-inspired membrane that can capture COVID-19 airborne droplets.

Schiffman and her UMaine counterparts received grants totaling more than \$225,000 from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) early-concept grants for exploratory research program, also called EAGER. Collaborating on the project is UMaine biomedical engineer Caitlin Howell and virologist Melissa Maginnis.

Drawing inspiration from the pitcher plant, which has a slippery rim and an inner membrane to capture insects in its digestive fluids, the team will bioengineer a composite material with a liquid layer on the surface to capture pathogenic particles for study. The goal of the

research is to develop an insert into an air filtration system to capture virus-containing droplets to make collection and analysis easier. The technology would be inexpensive and widely available for high-risk locations, such as hospitals, schools or elder-care facilities.

Schiffman said the fact that COVID-19 spreads through bio-aerosols makes disease surveillance, containment and treatment a challenge. Previous designs of aerosol collection systems have had limited success when it comes to retrieving intact virus particles from large volumes of air. A liquid-gated membrane system, inspired by the pitcher plant, would employ a water-immiscible liquid on the surface of the membrane to create a reusable, reversible liquid trap for live pathogenic particles.

The team will explore the development of new intellectual prop-



Courtesy photo
UMass Amherst researcher Jessica Schiffman

erty that would be well-aligned with manufacturing capabilities in both Massachusetts' and Maine's pulp and paper industry.

WNEU to offer Master of Science in Construction Management through College of Engineering

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University has announced the addition of a new Master of Science in Construction Management program to the list of graduate degree offerings.

"Construction Management is defined as a professional service that uses specialized, project management techniques to oversee the planning, design, and construction of a project, from its beginning to its end," says Kenneth Lee, founding Chair for the Construction Management Department as well as Professor and Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Western New England University (WNE).

U.S. News and World Report ranks a Construction Manager as #1 in Best Construction Jobs and #43 in 100 Best Jobs with a low unemployment rate of 2.3%. The Bureau of Labor Statistics website shows that the job outlook growth (2016-2026) for Construction Managers is at 11% (faster than average), with a median salary of \$93,370 per year.

"Construction projects can range from improving intersection traffic flows, to massive multi-billion dollar infrastructure projects with a decade long development environ-

ment, each which needs specialized people with specialized skill sets to manage" adds Christian Salmon, WNE Assistant Professor of Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management.

With courses rooted in civil engineering, industrial engineering, and engineering management the program strives to provide a well-rounded knowledge base in engineering as it pertains to construction management. Elective opportunities in business and management will give students a perspective into the business world that will prepare them for management and leadership roles.

"The MS in Construction Management is a great fit with our existing undergraduate and graduate programs offered by our College of Engineering," said Executive Director of Graduate Admissions, Matthew Fox. "We continue to accept applications for new graduate candidates, and those starting the construction management program this fall will

be able to earn their master's in as few as 18 months studying part-time or in one year studying full-time."

The program is tailored for students to choose from three options to complete the degree. The All-Course option allows students to complete the 10 graduate courses that include open electives choosing from courses in Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering as well as Engineering Management or Business. Through the Project or Thesis options students will work with a faculty advisor to take a deeper dive in a topic of interest, culminating in a final report and presentation.

Applications are now being accepted for the MS in Construction Management program. Classes begin September 28, 2020. To learn more, contact the Office of Graduate Studies at 413-782-1517 or email study@wne.edu.

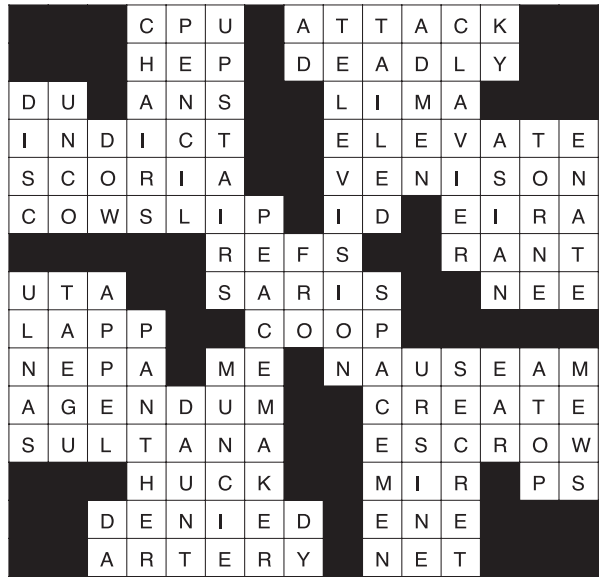
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Public Notices

**LEGAL NOTICE
MONSON
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**
Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday August 5, 2020 at 8:25 P.M. REMOTELY.** Under consideration is a Notice of Intent for the clearing of approx. 5000 SF of trees within the 100'-200' Riverfront Resource Area at **3 Pinnacle Rd, Map 29, Parcel 19.** The site contains 27,870 SF of Riverfront Area. Clarissia Shealy filed the request, property owner is Stephen Gallion.
Login: <https://zoom.us/j/93461517169?pwd=SU-JwR3lZbHAYZzdGT0ZQe-FlwRXVTZz09>
Dial: 1.646.558.8656
Meeting ID: 934 6151 7169
Password: 878803
Submitted by:
Monson Conservation Commission
07/30/2020

**LEGAL NOTICE
MONSON
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**
Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday August 5, 2020 at 8:40 P.M. REMOTELY.** Under consideration is a Request for a Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the installation of a 16"x21" deck on the rear of the house located at **63 Bethany Road** is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. William Palmer filed the request and

the property owner is Peter Warren.
Login: <https://zoom.us/j/93461517169?pwd=SU-JwR3lZbHAYZzdGT0ZQe-FlwRXVTZz09>
Dial: 1.646.558.8656
Meeting ID: 934 6151 7169
Password: 878803
Submitted by:
Monson Conservation Commission
07/30/2020

**LEGAL NOTICE
MONSON
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**
Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday August 5, 2020 at 8:10 P.M. REMOTELY.** Under consideration is a Notice of Intent for the replacement of a sanitary sewage disposal system and associated work at **63 Lakeshore Dr, Map 4, Parcel 12.** The proposed project is within the buffer zone to the bank of Pulpit Rock Pond. Property owner Chad Yergeau filed the request.
Login: <https://zoom.us/j/93461517169?pwd=SU-JwR3lZbHAYZzdGT0ZQe-FlwRXVTZz09>
Dial: 1.646.558.8656
Meeting ID: 934 6151 7169
Password: 878803
Submitted by:
Monson Conservation Commission
07/30/2020

**PALMER
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE
In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Ordinance, Chapter 168, the Palmer Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM** on the application of William Peacey of 104 Beech Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

The applicant is requesting an after-the-fact determination to see if the work associated with the installation of a chicken coup and caged run for birds is subject to the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Protection Ordinance. The structures are installed approximately 58-feet from the Bank of intermittent stream on the site.

The location of the proposed project is 104 Beech Street, Palmer MA 01069 and is also known as: Assessor's Map 75-10-6.

Public Participation will be via Virtual Means Only - Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Palmer Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. The public may participate in this meeting via Remote Participation: A website for the meeting will be provided on the Conservation Agenda posted on the Town's website at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Copies of the

Request for Determination of Applicability may be examined electronically by visiting this Website: <https://www.townofpalmer.com/conservation>

Donald Blais, Jr
Chair, Palmer Conservation Commission
7/30/2020

**LEGAL NOTICE
MONSON
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**
Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday August 5, 2020 at 8:55 P.M. REMOTELY.** Under consideration is a Request for a Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the expansion of the existing paved driveway at **325 Main St.** is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. Property owner Donna Bourguignon filed the request.
Login: <https://zoom.us/j/93461517169?pwd=SU-JwR3lZbHAYZzdGT0ZQe-FlwRXVTZz09>
Dial: 1.646.558.8656
Meeting ID: 934 6151 7169
Password: 878803
Submitted by:
Monson Conservation Commission
07/30/2020

**LEGAL NOTICE
MONSON
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**
Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday August 5, 2020**

at 7:55 P.M. REMOTELY. Under consideration is a Request for a Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the installation of an assist 40"x42" HDPE solid wall liner pipe to an existing culvert on **Bumstead Rd** is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. Town of Monson Highway Dept filed the request.
Login: <https://zoom.us/j/93461517169?pwd=SU-JwR3lZbHAYZzdGT0ZQe-FlwRXVTZz09>
Dial: 1.646.558.8656
Meeting ID: 934 6151 7169
Password: 878803
Submitted by:
Monson Conservation Commission
07/30/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE
Cox is currently negotiating with ESPN, owner of ACC Network; ABC/Disney, owner of Freeform, Disney Channel, Disney Jr., Disney XD, ESPN, ESPN2, ESPN Deportes, ESPN News, ESPN U, Longhorn and SEC Network, as well as BeIn Sports Media Group, owner of BeIn Sports and BeIn Sports en Espanol, to receive their signals on our video channel lineup. We are optimistic new agreements will be reached prior to their current expiration dates, so that there is no disruption to our customers. However, Cox is providing this required notice to customers of potential changes to the channel lineup. For more information about channel changes, please visit cox.com/channels.
07/30/2020

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Hampden, s.s.
TRIAL COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH SUPERIOR COURT
CASE NO. 2079CV-00177
ANN C. FRYDRYK
DONALD J. FRYDRYK
ROBERT P. FRYDRYK
THOMAS W. FRYDRYK
Plaintiffs
vs.
RONALD J. SWIATLOWSKI
NATALIE A. TAYLOR
JUDITH SWIATLOWSKI
JAMES SWIATLOWSKI
BARBARA PITONIAK
JOHN F. SWIATLOWSKI, JR.
CAROL J. HOLDEN
ROBERT LEONARD
BETH L. DULLEA
KRISTEN L. GARRISON
/k/a KRISTEN L. NORTH
WALTER SWIATLOWSKI, deceased, his heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest,
HELEN M. SWIATLOWSKI
LINDA M. McKEE and KATHERINE A. KARCZ, being the heirs presumptive of
WALTER SWIATLOWSKI, deceased
Defendants
ORDER OF NOTICE
This cause came on to be heard upon the motion of the Plaintiffs, praying for an Order of Notice and thereupon upon consideration thereof, it is
Ordered and Adjudged that an order of notice issue to said defendants, WALTER SWIATLOWSKI, deceased, his heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest,
HELEN M. SWIATLOWSKI, LINDA M. McKEE and KATHERINE A. KARCZ, being the heirs presumptive of WALTER SWIATLOWSKI, deceased,**

by publishing an attested copy of this order once each week for three consecutive weeks in the Palmer Journal Register, a newspaper published in the Town of Palmer, at least fourteen days before the **20th day of August** next, and that the said defendants, deceased, their heirs, assigns, legal representatives and successors in interest do cause their written appearance to be entered and their written answers or other lawful pleadings to be filed in the office of the Clerk of said Court at Springfield in said County of Hampden on or before the said **20th day of August** next.

If WALTER SWIATLOWSKI, deceased, his heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest, HELEN M. SWIATLOWSKI, LINDA M. McKEE and KATHERINE A. KARCZ, being the heirs presumptive of WALTER SWIATLOWSKI, deceased, their heirs, assigns, legal representatives and successors in interest, fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13 (a) your answers must state as a counterclaim any claim which you have against the Plaintiffs, ANN C. FRYDRYK, DONALD J. FRYDRYK, ROBERT P. FRYDRYK and THOMAS W. FRYDRYK, which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the Plaintiffs' claim or you will thereafter be barred from making any such claim in any other action.

By the Court (Hodge, J.)
Entered: July 7, 2020
Laura S. Gentile, Esquire
Clerk of Courts
7/16, 7/23, 7/30/2020

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

**TOWN OF PALMER
TOWN COUNCIL
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING**

Please be advised that per Governor Charlie Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C30 §20 which limits public access, please view this meeting via cable television on channel 15 live stream. Questions can be sent via email to npark-er@townofpalmer.com or call or text 413-388-1115 and answers will be provided in the order in which they were received to the extent possible. The Palmer Town Council will hold a public hearing on **August 10, 2020** at the Palmer Town Building, 4417 Main St., Palmer (Thorndike), MA at **6:30 PM** on proposed Ordinances 2021-01: Zoning Amendment; 1010 Park Street. From Town Residential to Village Center District 1.

Palmer Town Council
7/30/2020

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Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.
- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.
- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.
- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have



little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary

than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

12 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities

Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register • Country Journal
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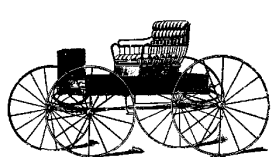
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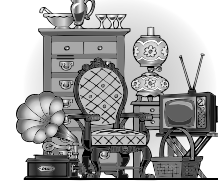
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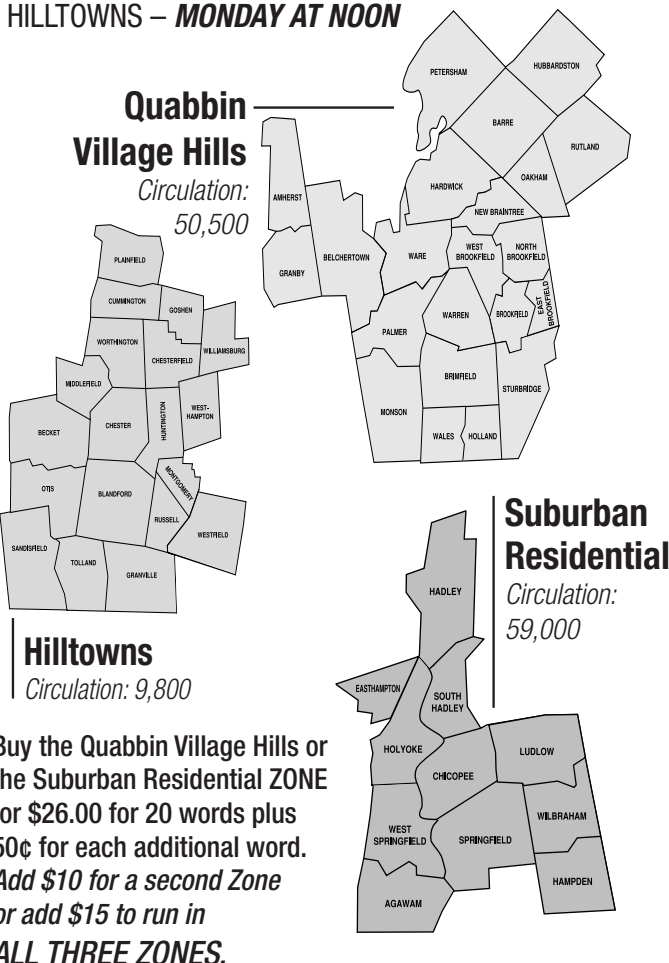
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VIGIL | from page 1

are not as involved with this nationwide issue as they could be.

“I think personally in this community, a lot of people don’t think that what’s going on is a problem that’s happening at home,” said Franco-Smith. “They think it’s more of a national problem, and we just want to highlight that those things that are happening nationally start in communities, and if you don’t change you can’t change the world.”

Shepardson shared similar sentiments and said despite the town having a predominately white demographic, it still has people of color (POC), who need their voices heard and supported.

One of which was Palmer resident Austin Coffey-Moore, who shared his experience as a person of color in a predominately white town.

“I have been stared down by white employees any time I try to enter a store. I have had one black teacher in my entire 22 years of living, and I had my own personal experiences of being racially profiled by police officers,” said Coffey-Moore.

During his speech, he also said “there needs to be a higher demand for white people to self-reflect and



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden
Vigil attendees socially distanced and focused on the dialogue taking place.



Palmer town manager Ryan McNutt telling attendees of the vigil to work with their local government to be the change they would like to see.



Second Congregational Church reverend Bruce Prestwood-Taylor leading attendees in prayer.

learn how they can be better in advocating for the fight against racial injustice.”

Other speakers included Palmer town manager Ryan McNutt, former Palmer High School (PHS) faculty member Olga Torres-Lopez, Franco-Smith and Her-ring, along with Holyoke mayor Alex Morse.

During Olga-Lopez’s speech, she spoke about her experiences of working as a person of color at PHS, such as being told by other faculty that she couldn’t speak Spanish in the hallway, despite it being what she taught to her students.

“I tried to help as much as I could,” said Torres-Lopez. “I think I stood out very much, because of how



Palmer resident Austin Coffey-Moore sharing his experiences as a person of color in a predominately white town.

outspoken I am, and I wish other teachers would be the same. I think kids need to know that they are protected and are being taught in a way where they can be themselves.”

Along with these speeches was a moment of silence, as well as a prayer from Second Congregational Church of Palmer reverend Bruce Prestwood-Taylor.

Another reason for the four organizers to hold this vigil was to present a list of demands that call for the



Holyoke's mayor Alex B. Morse speaking on the work that must be done to tackle racial injustices locally and nationwide.

change they would like to see in the Town of Palmer.

Demands include calling for the Town to provide a more diverse education, have leaders in the community modeling and promoting diversity in the town and conduct sensitivity training for all town employees.

In this list, there is also a demand for funding in the community that will create opportunities for POC to be celebrated and provided job opportunities, create fundraising with a sliding scale to allow low-income



Former Palmer High School faculty member Olga Torres-Lopez speaking on the lessons she had to teach her children, who have different skin complexions, her race-related struggles as someone of Puerto Rican and Colombian descent and her experiences with teaching in the town's school district.

students to have the chance to participate in sporting events and for the town to hold community events focused on different cultures.

The demands also included having the Palmer community continuing to engage in anti-racist actions through self-awareness, education and civic engagement and holding the town accountable for any possible incidents that involve racial injustice.



Turley Publications staff photos by Dalton Zbierski
Legendary stuntman Doug Danger poses with 12-year-old fan and family member Kaylyn Hall during an appearance at the Steaming Tender Restaurant in Palmer on July 24.



A Doug Danger fan enjoys a video as he waits to speak with Doug Danger at a book signing on July 24.



Doug Danger signs a book for a pair of fans at the Steaming Tender in Palmer last Friday.



Doug Danger, a legendary stuntman, loves dogs as much as adrenaline.

DANGER | from page 1

great past, and this town was the absolute greatest to grow up in. We had great people, great teachers, great police officers; this is just such a beautiful place.”

Senecal fondly recalled riding through sand pits and wooded trails. Palmer was home to his first stunts; one that he performed inside of Palmer High School during his sophomore year is still remembered more than 40 years later.

On the last day of school, Senecal rode his motorbike through the halls of the high school. That said, the act that led to his dismissal and eventual enrollment at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School almost never occurred.

“We had talked about doing it for awhile, and it started circulating around the school. I started thinking ‘This is way too big; I’m going to get in trouble,’” said Senecal. “I was going to back off, and then two guys from the football team who played the offensive line came up to me and said, ‘What time you going?’ I told them I thought about it and wasn’t going to do it. They said, ‘Oh, we got money on you; you’re going. What time?’ They held the doors open for me, and the rest is history.”

Senecal launched his stunt career in 1979, jumping over 10 cars in Palmer. From there, he never looked back.

Senecal earned his first world record in 1985 after completing a jump over 14 school buses. In 1991, he entered the Guinness Book of World Records by jumping 251 feet over 42 cars.

Spread between his many successes, however, are numerous failures; several of which nearly cost Senecal his life.

While Senecal had experienced

numerous bone-breaking crashes, during one of which he caught on fire, Senecal is sure that he cheated death on a summer afternoon in 1992.

During a July practice jump at Hudson Speedway in New Hampshire, Senecal slammed head first into a three-foot concrete retaining wall, suffering brain damage, prolonged amnesia and 17 broken bones. When it was widely assumed that Senecal’s career was over, the stuntman instead made his greatest leap.

“When I missed that jump at Hudson Speedway and hit that cement wall, I was very slow after because I had brain damage; people treated me very differently,” he said. “I didn’t like being treated that way. My brother sent me video of the crash and other jumps I had, and I was like that’s who I was? I want to be that guy again. If I did it before, I had to be able to do it again.”

Defying expectations, Senecal returned to the ramp, more committed than ever to land an extreme jump. Slowly but surely he built back his confidence and skill before successfully leaping over 18 tractor-trailer trucks in Las Vegas in 1999.

Several years later, Senecal returned to the scene of his 1992 New Hampshire incident to conquer the same jump that had nearly doomed him. He described what propelled him to one of his greatest accomplishments.

“After that crash, when I came to, I had no memory of anything in my past, but I wanted to come back and redo the jump,” said Senecal. “The night that I booked it, I was laying there in bed. I saw the whole jump; it came to me. I saw that the ramps weren’t quite set right. When I landed, I went straight up into the



Fans came to the Steaming Tender last Friday night to get Doug Danger to sign his biography, “Doug Danger, Dare to Dream: From Tragedy to Triumph,” written by his cousin Steven Hall, of Sturbridge.

wall. Just before I hit the wall, I woke right up; sweat pouring off me and everything else. But I learned what I did wrong. I went back and redid it. It was like, ‘You beat me last time, but I got you this time.’”

Senecal recaptured his past glory in the early 2000s, completing a variety of jumps on tours that took him to countries across the globe.

In 2012, he conquered a new opponent by defeating Stage 4 cancer. Senecal returned to jumping soon after and explained the philosophy that has enabled him to overcome adversity time and time again.

“You have to look at every failure as a learning experience. Learn from it and don’t ever do it again. As long as you do that and keep your chin up and keep going forward, you’re going to get where you want to be,” he said.

Today, Danger lives in Florida and continues to perform, jumping vehicles that range from motorbikes to monster trucks.

“Doug Danger, Dare to Dream: From Tragedy to Triumph,” is a newly-released biographical work written by Senecal’s cousin, Steven Hall, who lives in Sturbridge.

Hall, with his wife, Janet, are authors of “15 Rules For a Loving, Lasting, and Satisfying Relationship.” He is

The publication is available on numerous platforms, including Amazon.

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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